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PM0808130088 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraq is now ready to cease fire if Iran "clearly, unequivocally, and officially" agrees to hold direct negotiations with Iraq "directly after the cease-fire," Iraqi President Saddam Husayn announced in a message broadcast by Baghdad radio 6 August. The direct talks will focus on all clauses of Security Council Resolution 598 except the cease-fire, starting with the withdrawal of forces to international borders, he said. If Iran accepts the Iraqi initiative, Iraq will agree to the deployment of UN forces between the Iraqi and Iranian Armies until a lasting and comprehensive peace is reached and the two sides can resume "normal life." It is "natural" to say Iraq will be able to use the Shatt al-'Arab and Gulf waterways "immediately" after the cease-fire, Saddam Husayn added.

The Iraqi leader said this change in position followed consultations with other Arab states as well as a series of meetings by the Iraqi RCC and Ba'th Party Command. He also linked the decision with Iraq's concern to maintain the support of "unbiased world public opinion" and to ensure that nobody should think that "vanity or viciousness" had entered into Iraq's policy after its "great victory" over Iran. The Iranian delegation at the United Nations stated that the withdrawal of the Iraqi precondition will allow the UN secretary general to immediately begin to implement Resolution 598 and announce a cease-fire, Tehran radio reported. The Iranian statement confirmed Iran's willingness "to accept direct talks within the framework of Resolution 598 and the secretary general's implementation plan." The secretary general has disclosed his intention to announce a cease-fire date by 9 August, the radio noted.

Among Arab reaction to Saddam Husayn's announcement, Jordan's King Husayn welcomed it as a "positive and constructive initiative," INA noted. A Kuwaiti minister read a cabinet statement "commending" Iraq's "honorable initiative," according to KUNA. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat made a statement to INA saying Saddam has reaffirmed Iraq's "honest intention" to reach lasting peace. On the battlefronts, an Iraqi military communique broadcast 5 August by Baghdad radio mentioned continued fighting in the I, IV, and V Corps sectors. Iraq dropped chemical bombs 4-5 August on Kurdish villages in Lulan region, IRNA contended. Iraqi aircraft violated Iranian airspace in two separate incidents 5-6 August, according to Tehran radio and IRNA. A 6 August Iraqi military communique claimed the Iraqi Navy sank two Iranian boats in a clash near the Al-'Amiq port, Baghdad radio reported.

King Husayn sent a letter to the Jordanian Armed Forces commander hailing Iraq's "brotherly gift" of "new arms and equipment" captured by the Iraqi Army, Amman radio disclosed. A recent Kuwaiti press report indicated that the arms gift included 90 Chieftain tanks.

Iran: Airbus Issue

Airport officials have called off the search for the black box from the Iranian Airbus downed in the Gulf because of a "virtual discontinuation" of signals, IRNA reported. The U.S. Defense Department report which concluded that "human error" caused the incident is merely the latest move by the United States in its "desperate search for a scapegoat," IRNA contended.

Jordan

"Sovereignty" over the West Bank has been transferred to the PLO and the Palestinian people, and Jordan will "immediately recognize a Palestinian Government once it is created," King Husayn stated in a 7 August news conference reported by Amman television. He stressed that Jordan has "no intention" of closing the bridges across the Jordan River and confirmed that West Bank residents can retain their Jordanian passports until an independent Palestinian state is created and Palestinian passports are issued. The king denied "incorrect" statistics propagated by "certain circles" in Israel which indicate that Palestinians constitute a majority of the population in Jordan, stating that Jordanians of Palestinian origin constitute "less than 40 percent" of citizens in the kingdom. Figures of the numbers of West Bank employees laid off as a result of Jordan's recent measures have also been "exaggerated" in accordance with "the same method of distortion," the king said.

Husayn had earlier issued decrees confirming the dissolution of the higher committee for occupied West Bank affairs and accepting the resignation "for health reasons" of Labor and Social Development Minister Rashid 'Urayqat, Amman radio reported. 'Urayqat was replaced by Marwan Dudin as labor minister and Fawwaz Tuqan as minister of social development. A new minister of supply was also appointed. The ministry of occupied territories affairs, which was formerly held by Dudin, was abolished by a cabinet draft law and its work taken over by a newly created Palestinian affairs department linked with the Foreign Ministry, Amman television indicated. Dudin told the JORDAN TIMES that this limited cabinet reshuffle is "not the final measure" which the government will adopt in connection with its disengagement from the West Bank.

Israel

Comment on Palestinian Document—A Palestinian plan for an independent state within the frontiers specified in the 1947 UN partition plan was described by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir as an "insane" and "abortive"

notion that stands "no chance" of materializing. Speaking in an interview with Jerusalem television, Shamir asked how anyone can think that Israel can talk to people whose "immediate goal is the establishment of a Palestinian state within the state of Israel" and added this should unify Israelis against the PLO. Alignment ministers maintained that Shamir's office deliberately leaked the document—found during the search of Faysal al-Husayni's Institute for Arab Studies—in an attempt to prove there is no one among the Palestinians to talk to and nothing to discuss, Jerusalem radio noted. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin later told the radio that the timing of the paper's publication was "a substantive error on our part."

YEDI'OT AHARONOT published excerpts of the "independence document," which calls for an announcement of the establishment of a "sovereign Palestinian state" under an "interim government" headed by Yasir 'Arafat. The "government" would include other members of the PLO Executive Committee as well as George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah, the leaders of the PFLP and DFLP. While stipulating that the state would be "within" the 1947 partition boundaries, the document says a "functional delegation" should be formed to negotiate with Israel on "final borders" and other practical issues. The document stresses that the Palestinians do not aspire to annihilate Israel, but that "they wish to live peacefully as its neighbor." On the Palestinian side, AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah told Jerusalem television that the document was not written by Al-Husayni but by a Palestinian "think tank," which is preparing "contingency plans." Al-Husayni had access to the document because it was being passed around to test local reaction, Sinyurah said.

Territories—An Arab died of wounds caused by IDF gunfire 5 August, IDF radio reported, noting that the youth was one of two who were shot while in possession of Molotov cocktails. In another development, the mukhtar of Biddiya village was shot in the stomach by unknown gunmen 7 August, according to Jerusalem radio. A program for Palestinian action up to 22 August was outlined in the uprising leadership's "Call No 23," as broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio. While viewing Jordan's decision to disengage from the West Bank as "one of the most important achievements of the great popular uprising," the statement urged Jordan and other Arab states to provide "necessary facilities" to the Palestinians to enable them to continue their struggle.

Murphy Tour

U.S. envoy Richard Murphy met 6 August with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio noted. The day before he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to discuss the situation in Lebanon and other regional issues, Damascus television indicated. After his talks with Al-Asad, Murphy departed for Israel where he met Prime Minister Shamir, according to Jerusalem radio. Shamir told Murphy the PLO is becoming increasingly violent in the occupied territories in an attempt to persuade the United States to negotiate with it, the radio stated. Commenting on Murphy's tour, Jerusalem's AL-FAJR said Jordan's moves in the West Bank provide "new variables" and an opportunity for the United States to change its position regarding dialogue with the PLO. U.S. interests in the region will "remain limited" until the U.S. Government is willing to deal with the PLO, Riyadh radio commented. Citing the "escalation" of U.S. "hostility" in the region, JANA called on Arab nations to boycott Murphy's tour.

Lebanon

Islamic Jihad, the pro-Iran group that reportedly holds several Western hostages, has been "disbanded," according to an AL-SHIRA' report cited by Radio Monte Carlo. The paper stressed that Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani was "personally taking over" the group after it "disintegrated rapidly" when one of its leaders was captured. The interior minister said the Western hostages will be released before the end of the year, according to Voice of National Resistance radio. An unidentified "Western diplomatic source" said the release will occur "without preconditions and soon," the radio said. The source said the Canadian Government has joined the diplomatic effort to secure the hostages' release.

The Syrian defense minister said his remarks to STERN on the hostages had been "distorted" and were "far from the actual statement and its true meaning," Radio Monte Carlo reported. A Saudi newspaper claimed that "pro-Iranian elements" have made "military preparations" to disrupt the Lebanese presidential elections, MENA indicated. "Tehran's agents in Beirut" installed "military and other weapons" with which to attack the Chamber of Deputies, the paper 'UKAZ maintained.

Kuwait: Arms Purchase

The government approved amendments stipulated by the U.S. Congress on a deal to purchase 40 F-18 aircraft, KUNA reported. The foreign minister said the amendments, which affirm that the arms be used only for defensive purposes, "coincided" with the country's interests, KUNA added.

Libya-Tunisia

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali arrived in Tripoli 6 August for talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, JANA reported. Speaking on arrival, Ben Ali said the visit will "bolster the deep historical relations" between the two countries and called it a step on the path toward establishing a "greater Maghreb without boundaries," according to JANA and Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio. Al-Qadhdhafi said the visit will lay the foundation for "serious unionist action," the radio added. In a dinner speech reported by Tripoli radio, Al-Qadhdhafi praised Ben Ali for ending "the era

of subservience" in Tunisia. He also reiterated Libya's call for establishing diplomatic relations with Chad without conditions and said Libya no longer provides support for the Chadian opposition.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan and the USSR made a "joint announcement" on USSR Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit which reaffirmed the two countries support for the geneva accords, TASS stated. The announcement called for settling the issue of Soviet POW's and denounced Pakistan for "systematically and crudely" violating the agreements. The sides urged the United States to use its "influence appropriately" on Pakistan to prevent further violations. Shevardnadze departed 7 August after meeting with President Najibullah for a "detailed exchange of opinion" on the agreements, TASS and Kabul radio reported. The sides noted their "complete identity of views" on all issues, TASS reported.

In an interview with BAKHTAR cited by TASS, Shevardnadze said the Soviet troop withdrawal is "firmly on track." He discussed bilateral relations with Prime Minister Hasan Sharq and met with Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil 5 August to discuss international issues, the radio noted. Shevardnadze also met with the interior minister, the Armed Forces chief of staff, and other "prominent Afghan statesman," TASS and Kabul radio disclosed. A USSR Council of Ministers official met with Sharq to discuss joint economic and technical cooperation, the radio noted.

Soviet troops will begin withdrawing from Kabul 8 August, according to "official Soviet and Afghan sources" cited by AFP. The exact number of troops leaving was unknown, AFP added. The last Soviet troops left Qandahar 7 August, TASS reported. "Not a single Soviet soldier" remains in southern Afghanistan, TASS noted. A Soviet Embassy spokesman in Kabul said the USSR has "no plans" to launch "major troop offensives" in the country, AFP disclosed. But the USSR intends to help in the "reconstruction" of "entire sectors" of the Afghan economy "until the year 2000," the source said.

Rebel rocket attacks on Kabul have been "much less intense" after Soviet "counterattacks" in the past few weeks, according to Western diplomatic sources cited by AFP. Nine persons were killed when "extremists" fired surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas of Jalalabad 5 August, Kabul radio noted.

Pakistani officials are holding the pilot of a Soviet plane downed 4 August in northern Pakistan, AFP disclosed. A Pakistani Defense Ministry spokesman confirmed that a fighter bomber was downed recently after it violated Pakistani airspace, Islamabad radio announced. Newspapers reported that the plane was shot down while on a "bombing raid" over Pakistani territory, according to AFP.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman denied Pakistan's claim that Afghan artillery shelled two border towns, BAKHTAR reported. The Pakistani protest is "baseless" and the government "categorically refutes" it, the spokesman said. A Foreign Ministry spokesman decried as a "fresh wave of propaganda" the decision by some Western countries to evacuate families and nonessential staff, Kabul radio announced. The spokesman said Pakistan's interference in Afghan internal affairs gave "a new pretext" to propagandists to "reflect the instability" in the country. He said the government has taken extra measures and has the "capability and authority" to maintain security. The government sees this Western depiction of insecurity as a "provocative act," the spokesman indicated.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan returned from his visit to the United States and the USSR, and said U.S. leaders "reaffirmed their continued firm support" for Pakistan, Islamabad radio reported. Commenting on his meetings in the USSR, Khan "categorically rejected" Moscow's "baseless charges" that Pakistan violated the Geneva accords, the radio noted. He called Afghan border violations and "subversive activities" a "glaring example of international terrorism" and said the USSR's transfer of weapons from its departing troops to the Afghan Armed Forces "runs contrary" to the agreements.

President Ziaul Haq issued a statement condemning the murder 5 August of a prominent Shi'ite religious scholar, Islamabad radio announced. Zia said he was "deeply shocked" by the assassination, which he called a "conspiracy" by the "enemies of Pakistan and Islam." The Interior Minister said in a condolence message that there is "clear evidence that foreign, hostile hands" were responsible, the radio added. Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the scholar was assassinated because of his "support for the Islamic Republic," IRNA indicated.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Reportedly Knew of Disengagement Plans

JN0408191788 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 3 Aug 88 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman, AL-SIYASAH—AL-SIYASAH has learned that the PLO had prior knowledge of the Jordanian resolution to disengage the relationship between the two banks. The resolution was announced by the Jordanian monarch early this week in response to the PLO's persistence and the Algiers summit's resolution.

Diplomatic sources asserted that the PLO had prior knowledge of the resolution through Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member, who spent several days in Amman during the 'Id holiday. The same sources added that the PLO is totally satisfied with the Jordanian decision.

According to remarks made to AL-SIYASAH by a political figure, this decision came as a result of many years of declared and implicit allegations against Jordan in which it was suggested that Jordan aspires to control Palestinian decisionmaking and to share administrative powers in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

'Abd Rabbuh on PNC Meeting, Talks With Jordan

JN0608154088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1350 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] London, 6 Aug (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh announced that the PNC will meet in Baghdad next month and that officials in the PLO have started making the necessary preparations for the meeting.

In statements published in today's issue of the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, 'Abd Rabbuh said the discussion on announcing a government-in-exile is an irrelevant issue. He said the meeting will concentrate on discussing means of strengthening and supporting politically and materially the continuation of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

'Abd Rabbuh revealed that Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Amman has not yet been decided on. What is decided on presently is a visit that PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, intends to make. Two members of the committee who live in Amman, Muhammad Milhim and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, are preparing for this visit.

Abu Mazin will discuss during his visit to Amman some issues that have resulted from Jordan's announcement on the disengagement of ties with the occupied West Bank.

Palestinian Groups React to King Husayn's Move

NC0608172488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Palestinian groups continue to react to recent Jordanian measures in connection with the West Bank. The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has called on Jordan to halt all measures which could harm the Palestinian people and their unity. The Front has issued a communique saying King Husayn made his decision on the West Bank without consulting the PLO or Arab countries.

Meanwhile, the PFLP-General Command has said that while King Husayn's decision seems positive on the face of it because it confirms the PLO's status as the representative of the Palestinian people, beneath the surface it is consistent with U.S. scenarios for solution. The group accused King Husayn of acting out his role according to U.S. scripts.

For its part, Fatah-the Provisional Command has described the Jordanian measures as a very dangerous plot against the uprising in the occupied territories.

'Uprising' Leadership Issues Call No 23

JN0508191888 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1638 GMT 5 Aug 88

["Call No 23, issued by the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, call of the deportees"—date, place not given]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. No voice can rise above that of the uprising. No voice can rise above the voice of the Palestinian people, the people of the PLO.

O masses of our struggling Palestinian people. O masses of the victorious uprising: These days, your uprising is entering its 9th month while it makes more and more achievements on the long and hard path of struggle toward freedom and independence and toward realizing our people's legitimate national hopes and aspirations for repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The latest Jordanian measures to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank came as one of the most important achievements of the great popular uprising. These measures also came as a practical step to implement the Algiers summit resolutions and to bolster the status of the PLO and the exclusivity of its representation of our people as the only side authorized to shoulder all responsibilities toward our people in the homeland and in the diaspora.

Jordan, and all Arab states, are requested to provide the necessary facilities to our people wherever they may be, particularly in the occupied territories, to enable them to continue their struggle and uprising.

This achievement comes to add to your previous achievements, where you made the enemy lose more than $2 billion in the economic sector and where you obtained three resolutions from the UN Security Council. For the first time, these resolutions talk about the Palestinian occupied territories.

You have exposed before the whole world the racist and fascist face of the occupation. You have confirmed our people's national legitimate rights in the uprising's summit in Algiers. You have covered a tangible distance on the path of dismantling the military rule's organs and departments and on the path of building the people's solemn national authority, represented by the national popular committees. You have laid the foundations for a new lifestyle based on cooperation and self-reliance. We all should be proud of these achievements. We must always be ready to preserve and develop them.

The visit by U.S. envoy Murphy to the Middle East region is only a continuation of Shultz' plan and an attempt to breathe life into it after it was foiled by the uprising.

Therefore, the uprising's leadership calls for a continuation in the boycott of the U.S. envoy, or any other envoy of the U.S. Administration, as long as this administration continues its denial of our people's national rights and our sole legitimate representative—the PLO.

The leadership calls on our people to receive Murphy with crowded demonstrations and fierce clashes with the occupation troops.

The Unified National Leadership and the masses of the uprising welcome Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598 on the Gulf war. They consider it a positive step to put an end to this destructive war, which sqaundered the material and human resources of both countries, and to expel the U.S. fleets from the Gulf. The stopping of this war will offer a great service to our people's uprising and national struggle, especially since Iraq is scoring these glorious victories in defense of our Arab nation's eastern gate.

In the name of the masses of the occupied land, the Unified National Leadership conveys its greetings to the leaders of our revolution and people who are meeting in Baghdad within the framework of the PLO Central Council's meetings. They praise their efforts to achieve resolutions that will support our people' s uprising, that will entrench the national unity within the framework of the PLO, based on collective leadership and the resolutions of the 18th session of the PNC, and that will affirm the need to convene an effective international conference, with the attendance of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative on an equal footing with other sides to achieve our people's national rights of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on our national soil.

You, O sons of our heroic people, the Zionist enemy, through deporting many of you from your homeland, deludes itself into believing it is capable of checking the ongoing uprising. Over the past 8 months, you have proved that the measures being perpetrated by the enemy—namely, the deportations, the house demolitions, the terrorizing of citizens, the economic measures and the war it has been waging on the people's and nationalist committees, its closure of nationalist institutions, and the claims it has been propagating through the mass media and agents to the effect that the uprising has ended and that its momentum has been weakened—all this and more will fail in the face of your burning flame and the high degree of your readiness to make sacrifices and offer bountiful offerings.

On this road, the Unified National Leadership calls for confronting the enemy and its organs through stressing the following:

—Pursuing the enemy's collaborators, those who have not tendered their resignations, those who promote the enemy's products, and those who propagate tendentious rumors. Besides, it must be stressed that people must boycott work in Jewish setlements and must also refrain from paying taxes, fines, and financial bails.

—Enhancing and bolstering the activities carried out in a show of solidarity with the male and female detainees jailed in enemy prisons and detention centers, especially those detained in the Ansar-3 detention center. The women's committees and bodies must shoulder a special responsibility in organizing sit-ins and other appropriate activities.

—The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising salutes the peoples who are struggling for the sake of attaining freedom and independence in Namibia, South Africa, and Chile and calls upon those with a living conscience throughout the world to work toward releasing the prisoners of freedom and conscience, headed by struggler Nelson Mandela. Greetings to the Jerusalem masses for their defense of the capital of their independent Palestinian state. They are called upon to maintain a continuous presence around the Al-Aqsa Mosque area to prevent the authorities from carrying out diggings and to confront any danger directed to our Islamic and Christian holy places.

—Deepening and expanding the manifestations of disobedience to the orders issued by the occupation authorities regarding wiping out patriotic graffiti and summonses, bringing down Palestinian flags, and removing roadblocks and barricades.

—Demonstrating collective confrontation of the detention campaigns, the tax-collection campaigns, and the campaigns of demolishing houses, a manifestation of which occurred in the heroic town of Bayt Furik.

—Beware of the occupation authorities' attempts to break the unified stand of our merchants by tempting some of them rather than all, such as exempting some from paying taxes in return for renewing their vehicle licences with the aim of maintaining dealings with the enemy's organs.

—We would like to pay tribute to the EEC member states' stand which took the form of failing to approve the renewal of the economic agreement with Israel. We require the Palestinian farmers to refrain from exporting their products through the Israeli Gresco Company. Beware of some suspect local parties and figures and their relations with the Gresco Company. We also ask them to form national exporting and marketing institutions.

Also, the Unified National Leadership requires the people's committees to market local agricultural products, to form marketing committees, and to support the existing marketing committees with the aim of supporting the Palestinian farmer and aborting enemy attempts to prevent some areas from exporting their products.

—The Unified National Leadership affirms that the authorities' closure of universities and higher institutes of learning and its termination of the school year before its set date clearly indicate that the occupation seeks to prevent the sons of our people from receiving education.

Consequently, we have no choice but to depend on ourselves to educate ourselves and our sons through organizing and developing popular education. We also ask our universities and our lecturers to find ways to resume university education, especially for students in the final years of study. We also call upon the Higher Educational Council to shoulder its responsibilities in this regard and demand that the universities and higher institutes be reopened. The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising hails the Jewish doctors who rejected occupation measures regarding not treating the uprising's wounded, the journalists who are being exposed to repression because they have raised their voices high against the occupation, and all those who are being tortured because they support our people's national rights.

It calls on them to bolster their support for our just struggle and to enlighten the Israeli street of our just rights. This is because any human being who accepts persecution of another cannot be free.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising calls on the national and progressive forces behind the green line to discard their differences, stop their exchanged propaganda campaigns, and close their ranks and unify their potential to serve our people's triumphant uprising and to attain their national legitimate rights.

The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising, while it is proud of the marches of the strike forces that are wrapped with the colors of the Palestinian flag in the old city in Nabulus, and while it highly appreciates the role of our masses in the camps in Gaza in confronting the enemy's repressive policy, and also in Nabulus, Janin, 'Azzun, and the camps of Al-Jalazun, Al-Am'ari, Al-Duhayshah, Jabaliyah, Al-Shati', and Al-Burayj, and all our people's concentrations, also calls for promoting the level of popular organization and entrenching the role of the popular committees, the specialized committees, and the strike forces.

It calls on all positions to escalate their uprising and implement the following activities:

1. The day of 8 August 1988 shall be a day for expressing solidarity with the Palestinian detainees, particularly in Ansar-3. During this day solidarity activities should be carried out and womens organizations should also perform their duties in this regard.

2. The day of 9 August 1988 shall be an day for a comprehensive strike on the day when the uprising enters its 9th month.

3. The day of 10 August shall be a news media day to explain the demands of the uprising and its achievements on popular and world levels. Journalists should play a prominent role in this regard.

4. The day of 13 August shall be a day on which the popular and national committee should assess their role to promote and enhance their performance and organization and to set the required programs to develop the uprising.

5. The day of 17 August, the day of Jerusalem, shall be a day of a comprehensive strike to glorify the capital of our great Palestinian state and to protest the arrest and repression campaigns against its righteous sons.

6. The day of 21 August, the 20th anniversary of the Zionist burning of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, shall be a day of demonstrations and confrontations with the occupiers in condemnation of this hideous crime and of attempts to desecrate and destroy the holy places through excavations. This day shall be considered the day of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

7. The day of 22 August shall be a day for a comprehensive strike to protest the tax authorities' practices against the valiant merchants and to express solidarity with their struggle.

Let us further escalate confrontations against the occupation's soldiers, organs, and agents. Let us have further cohesion and revolutionary vigilance. We will inevitably achieve victory.

General order: No one shall be allowed to speak for, make a statement, or issue a communique in the name of the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising without its prior knowledge or an authorization from it. Let us be cautious against press statements and calls attributed to the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising.

Signed, the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising

OPEC Affairs

$16-17 Oil Price 'by September' Predicted

PM0708134388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Arab Oil Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'Oil Prices To Go Up To $17 a Barrel'"]

[Text] London—A high-ranking Arab oil source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that oil prices will move up from the current low level and may reach $16 or $17 by September, which marks the beginning of winter.

He said that prices will rise gradually as demand increases on two fronts: for immediate consumption and to build up distribution companies' reserves.

That, the source said, is specifically the view expressed in a report submitted to the OPEC ministerial Price Control Committee during its meeting in Lausanne Wednesday.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has also learned from the prominent Arab source that the inclination in the committee is to reject the call for an OPEC emergency conference because a moderate OPEC member state is of the opinion that such a conference would be futile so long as certain states do not fully abide by the assigned quotas.

He quoted the representative of that moderate state as saying: "Unless there is full and comprehensive commitment to the quotas, it would be pointless to hold an emergency conference."

The representative added: How can OPEC reduce or increase quotas if the member states do not abide by decisions made?

The source said that the report submitted to the committee on matters of supply and demand revealed that the current production ceiling is not in harmony with current market conditions.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Gets 'Urgent' Shevardnadze Message

NC0708133288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1304 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Aug (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minsiter and foreign minister, received an urgent message today from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The message deals with the developments in the Middle East as well as the outcome of the recent talks in Geneva between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Near East Countries Department. The Soviet charge d'affaires in Cairo delivered the message this morning, 2 days before Murphy's visit to Cairo, scheduled to begin on Tuesday.

Iraq's Taha Yasin Ramadan Arrives in Cairo 8 Aug

NC0808082088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, arrived at Cairo airport this morning, leading a delegation for consultations with Egyptian officials to discuss ways of promoting bilateral relations as well as developments in the Gulf war. Ramadan was received at the airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Carries Message for Mubarak

NC0808112288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, said upon his arrival at Cairo airport today that he has brought a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak dealing with bilateral relations and asserting the importance of these relations at the pan-Arab level.

Ramadan further said he will inform President Mubarak of the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war and of the efforts being exerted to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 after Iraq agreed on a cease-fire and direct negotiations with Iran. The Iraqi official praised Egypt's pan-Arab stand and its support for Iraq in its national and pan-Arab endeavors.

Israeli Delegation to Tabah Talks Arrives

NC0708204388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Aug (MENA)—Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Israeli prime minister's office, arrived in Cairo this evening, accompanied by a delegation, to participate in the tripartite talks on Tabah to be held in Cairo on Tuesday.

Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, director of the Legal Department in the Foreign Ministry and head of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks, who received the Israeli delegation, stated that the U.S. delegation to the talks, led by Abraham Sofaer, legal adviser at the U.S. State Department, will arrive in Cairo tomorrow at noon.

Ghali Returns From Moscow After 2-Week Visit

NC0708203088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Aug (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo from Moscow this evening following a 2-week visit to the Soviet Union.

In an arrival statement at the airport, Dr Ghali said that, during his visit to Moscow, he had led the Egyptian delegation to the celebrations held by the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society to mark the Egyptian July revolution anniversary. He added that he also had held talks with the secretary [as received] of the CPSU Central committee within the framework of party cooperation between the two states. Dr Ghali said he also held discussions with the Soviet first deputy foreign minister within the framework of the two countries' diplomatic ties.

Dr Ghali noted that during his visit he had met with members of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society. He said his talks in Moscow dealt with bilateral relations and the promotion of these relations in various fields.

PLO Representative Leaves for Tunis Meetings

NC0608123088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Excerpt] PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal left for Tunisia for consultations with the Palestinian leadership about Egypt's efforts to arrange a meeting between a number of Palestinian figures and Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, during the latter's 2-day visit to Cairo, which begins next Tuesday. Murphy will be received by President Husni Mubarak and will hold talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the situation in the Middle East.

Murphy will arrive in Israel from Damascus this evening within his current tour of a number of countries in the region. [passage omitted]

Australian Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0508184988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Aug (MENA)—Australian Energy Minister Michael Baker [name and title as received] and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo today at the conclusion of a 3-day visit, during which he held talks with Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy.

The talks dealt mainly with an Australian-Egyptian agreement to establish a huge coal-operated power plant in the Al-Za'faranah area on the Gulf of Suez. The Australian minister was seen off at the airport by Eng Abazah and a number of senior officials at the ministry.

Libya

Reportage on Visit by Tunisian President Ben Ali

Welcomed by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0608190088 Tripoli JANA in English 1441 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of sisterly Tunisia, arrived in Tripoli at 10-45 a.m. on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah upon the invitation extended to him by the leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

A massive welcoming ceremony was mounted for President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at Tripoli International Airport where the leader of the revolution spearheaded the party welcoming him.

Taking part in the ceremony of welcome were Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmed Jallud; Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces; Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, the inspector general of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi.

Also taking part were the secretary and members of the General People's Congress, the secretary and members of the General People's Committee, the secretaries of Basic People's Congresses and Committees, a number of the officers of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Great Jamahiriyah.

As soon as President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali arrived, the leader embraced him warmly expressing the spirit of fraternity and love amongst brothers. Then, the leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine went to the honourary stand where they listened to the national anthem of Tunisia and 'God is greatest' anthem. After that President Zine El Abidine, accompanied by the leader of the revolution, reviewed a military formation representing the four armed forces of the Libyan Arab Army [as received] while 21 gun salutes were fired in honour of the arrival of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

President Zine El Abidine shook the hands of the people welcoming him and crowds of the masses of the Basic People's Congresses and the Arab people from Tunisia gathered around the leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in a unionist massive rally carrying banners with slogans reaffirming fraternal cohesion between the Arab people in the two countries. Also, they carried pictures of the leader and President Zine El Abidine and chanting for Arab unity and common destiny and the massive hope to which they aspire to realise and the building up of the Arab Maghreb without borders along the path of total Arab unity. [sentence as received]

President Zine El Abidine made a statement to the press. He said "I am delighted at my arrival in sisterly Libya on the generous invitation from my friend and Brother Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi the leader of the Great al-Fatih revolution. I avail myself of this opportunity to convey to the brotherly Libyan people the greetings, love and fraternity from the Tunisian people. I would like to assert that the new era which Tunisia entered is an era we opened with all our Arab brothers especially our brothers in sisterly Jamahiriyah. I am sure that this visit will further bolster the deep historical relations linking the Arab people in Tunisia and Libya and enable us to continue the entrenchment of the foundations of unity and complementarity at bilateral, Maghreb and Arab levels and God bless you."

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is accompanied in his visit by a delegation consisting of Abdelhamid Escheikh, the foreign minister; Mohamed Ghannouchi, the minister of planning; Slaheddine Ben M'barek, the minister of agriculture; Taoufik Cheikhrouhou, the minister of social affairs; Abdelmalek Laarif, the minister of information; [and] the secretary of state to the minister of interior in charge of national security.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was given tumultuous and massive popular welcome expressing the strong fraternal links between the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia as thousands of people of the Basic People's Congresses who came from all parts of the country and stood on both sides of the road from Tripoli international Tripoli [as received] to the city of Tripoli to welcome and greet President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The masses raised pictures of the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and slogans expressing warm welcome and lauding fraternal cohesion between the Arab people of the two countries.

The masses expressed in their chanting their pride in the meeting taking place on the territory of the Great Al-Fatih between the leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and earnest efforts towards bringing closer the day of unity and the erection of an Arab Maghreb free from borders towards the realisation of total Arab unity.

The masses reiterated their commitment to the unionist orientation between Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia embodied in the meetings between the leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Along the road, the masses of the Basic People's Congresses sacrificed hundreds of lambs expressing their happiness at the visit of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to Great Jamahiriyah.

The popular welcome reached its climax when the leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali arrived in the city of Tripoli as the streets and squares became overcrowded with the popular masses [who] chanted greeting the leader and President Zine El Abidine and the masses gathered around them in a unionist rally expressing their appreciation of this unionist meeting.

Leaders Address Opening Session

LD0708015088 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Yesterday, Saturday, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, revolutionary leader and leader of pan-Arabism, and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali attended the opening session of the official talks between the great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia. At the beginning of the session, the brother leader of the revolution made the following speech:

Today we would like to express our happiness and joy in that brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is in this country and among his family. When we welcome him and his delegation, we are simultaneously welcoming the Arab people in Tunisia.

The leader said: Your brothers in Libya have personally and directly expressed today the sort of feelings that you deserve. He added: We consider this a very important day in the life of the Arab people in Libya and Tunisia because it is the first official meeting between us. This meeting will lay the foundation for serious unionist action between the two countries and peoples, who are in fact a single country and people whom colonialism divided and made two peoples and two countries.

The brother leader said: Words cannot really do justice to the esteem, love, and joy that we all feel toward you, brother president, and all the brothers who accompany you as well as toward the Arab people in Tunisia. Personally, I am very grateful to you for responding to our brotherly invitation and for paying this official visit. In fact, we consider ourselves one part and not two parts. We welcome you, and we are happy to have you as our guests. Our welcome and celebrations are those of brothers toward brothers, our respect is mutual, and surely, you do not consider yourselves guests in your country and among your family.

The leader went on, saying: Certainly this opportunity will enable brothers from both sides, as it were, who started their joint activity in the past, to meet again and complete the necessary achievements on the path of unionist action, which has become a serious action following 7 November.

At the end of his speech, the brother leader said: These words cannot express the full meaning of welcome and cannot do justice to the sentiments of respect, pride, and dignity we feel toward you. I hope that I will have another opportunity this evening to welcome you again in the presence of the diplomatic corps.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali made a speech during the opening session. He greeted the brother leader and the brother members of both delegations.

He said: I am happy to renew my sincere thanks and gratitude for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded us on the soil of the Jamahiriyah, which truly expressed our masses' welcome of the steps that we have successfully achieved on the path of bolstering, diversifying, and consolidating cooperation in all fields. This is the right path for the establishment of a greater Maghreb without boundaries, which would be a real start and an effective factor toward the materialization of comprehensive Arab unity.

President Ben Ali called on technical cadres in both countries to work hard and find practical formulae which translate the clear political will of the leaderships of both countries as well as the mutual and firm brotherhood that exist between them out of their belief in a single future and destiny.

The following brothers attended the opening session of the talks: the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison; secretaries of the People's Committees for Information, Culture, Planning, and Public Service; and the general delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to Tunisia.

Also attending the session were these Tunisian brothers: Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, Agriculture Minister Slaheddine Ben M'barek, Social Affairs Minister Taoufik Cheikhrouhou, Planning Minister Mohamed Ghannouch, and Information Minister Abdemalek Laarif. A number of experts and officials from both countries also were present.

Closed Talks Held

LD0708132388 Tripoli JANA in English 1107 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution and President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali last night held a closed session.

Morning Meeting

LD0708134288 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Brother leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali have met this morning. The meeting was attended by Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces;

and Major al-Khuwayladi al-Humaydi. [passage omitted] The brother leader of the revolution awarded President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali the bravery medal from the Free Revolutionary Officers Movement, in appreciation of the brave heroic action by President Ben Ali on the morning of the glorious 7 November.

Al-Qadhdhafi Banquet Speech

LD0708201788 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1255 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a banquet honoring Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at Bab al-'Aziziyyah on 6 August—recorded]

[Text] Gentlemen: Permit me warmly and sincerely to welcome my dear brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of Tunisia. I also welcome the high-level delegation accompanying him. In welcoming him, we welcome our Arab people in Tunisia. Since his arrival today to his homeland, his home and the home of his kinfolk, his brothers in Libya have been expressing this sincere and warm welcome, spontaneously, from the heart.

The brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali deserves the type of welcome showed to him today by the Arab people in Libya. The Libyan people rarely take to the streets to welcome heads of state, but today they are welcoming not a traditional head of state; they are welcoming one of the heroes of the Arab nation, the hero of 7 November, the savior of the Arab people in Tunisia, the one who on 7 November removed a big obstacle from the path of Arab unity, liberation, and progress.

The brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali deserves appreciation, respect, and honor befitting the savior of a people, a brave man who faced up to regionalism, subservience, agentry, reaction, and the rotten backwardness that he removed with all confidence and daring. On 7 November a new dawn appeared over Tunisia, the Arab Maghreb, and the Arab homeland. It re-introduced the radiance of the rising star of North Africa. And, on 7 November, the era of subservience came to an end in Tunisia. It was also the end of the period of sterility that had burdened Tunisia, North Africa, and a precious part of the Arab homeland.

The day of 7 November also removed the period of deriding pan-Arab values, the period of belittling sacred sacrifices offered by this nation. The pre-7 November era belittled the scores of martyrs offered by the Arab people in Tunisia, the brave people that resisted the heinous French colonialism; the people that offered, at the eternal battle of Bizerta, more than 1,000 martyrs by storming the French colonial base. At the time, and with all contempt, the French colonial government decided to use Tunisia as a base to strike at Algeria, strike at the Algerian revolution before its victory.

But the sacrifices of 1,000 martyrs generously offered by the Tunisian people in just a few hours made the colonialists come to their senses. They saw that they could not use an Arab country, Tunisia, to strike at another Arab country, Algeria. These sacrifices were belittled terribly. Little regard was accorded to the Tunisian national potentials and pan-Arab potentials. A crude system was imposed, a system of derision and trivialities to tarnish any seriousness, to cast doubt on the abilities of the Tunisians. There was encroachment on Tunisian national dignity, on pan-Arab dignity, to the point that colonialists believed that it was possible to prolong the lives of trivial types in Arab land, and that a revolt against these types was impossible.

But 7 November disappointed the colonialists, put an end to their dreams and to the era of triviality, derision, and [word indistinct]. It also showed the world the real face of Arab and Muslim Tunisia, unionist Tunisia. The pre-7 November era worked hard to disfigure the reality of Arab, Islamic Tunisia. It wanted to take it down to the lowest level of subservience and rejection of pan-Arabism, Arab unity, and the Palestinian cause. But with the end of this nightmare, and the toppling of the statue [Bourguiba], darkness was lifted from the land of green Tunisia. Tunisia then appeared as unionist, pan-Arabist, revolutionary.

This is a shining point in a period of pitch darkness experienced by the Arab people these days. This shining point is 7 November. The day of 7 November turned the enmity and hostility imposed on the Arab people in Libya and Tunisia into brotherhood and love. It replaced estrangement, regionalism, and isolation with integration and unity. What is now taking place between the two Arab countries, Tunisia and Libya, confirms, without speeches and addresses, these facts: What existed before 7 November was a falsification of reality; it was a repression of the Arab character of Tunisia. It was an abortive attempt to disfigure its Arab and Islamic identity.

It was a dirty attempt in response to orders from colonialists to fabricate enmity between brothers. However, between Tunisians and Libyans, who are both Arab peoples, there was brotherhood. They were brothers who needed one another. They embraced each other [after 7 November] and trampled the artificial borders under foot.

But this is not enough. The lesson learned is that so far it remains a matter of luck and a gamble. If a bad person takes power, then things are falsified like they used to be. If a good person triumphs—as is the case now after 7 November in Tunisia or as was the case in Libya before and after 1 September—then it is good luck. In light of this lesson, we must not leave the future of our countries, the future of our peoples, to a matter of chance or a gamble. Matters must not be left to hopes that prayers for a good ruler to take over are fulfilled. These prayers might not be fulfilled and then a bad ruler takes power.

After the advent of historic occasions like 1 September and 7 November, we must enable the peoples to rule themselves, to do without a ruler once and for all.

There must be an end to the silly prayers for a good ruler to replace a bad one. People must abandon such calls and poor prayers; they must begin to rule their own lives. Those of us who have engaged in dangerous adventures in order to save our peoples must enable them to emancipate themselves in a definitive way. The power of the masses must be established so that these tragedies will not be repeated, so that unjust and dirty eras will not be repeated, as was the case in Libya before 1 September and in Tunisia before 7 November.

Today we welcome one of the heroes of the Arab nation. He has removed the era of falsification, subservience, and lies. He is now acting with complete confidence and rare courage in revealing facts to the masses in Tunisia, in the Arab homeland, and in the Arab Maghreb so they will realize their situation and decide their own fate, in accordance with the facts before them and which are now being fearlessly revealed in Tunisia over the radio.

Whoever listens to Tunisian radio broadcasts will sense the bravery and sincerity in opening the eyes of the masses to their problems without shame or fear. This historic action which you, brother President, and your brave comrades carried out on 7 November gave us the opportunity to make up for losses caused by the era of dependence, isolationism, regionalism, and demagoguery and gave us the opportunity to discover for ourselves solutions to our problems.

The practical steps you have carried out are proof of this. The meetings which took place between us after 7 November in Tunis or on Jerba Island or on the sidelines of the Arab summit in Algiers or at the Maghreb summit, as well as the continuous telephone contacts between us and this historic meeting today are all practical steps by which you have continuously proved your sincerity, effectiveness, and seriousness. You have not come for the sake of ruling, but you have come in order to solve the problems of the masses. You know that isolationism, regionalism, dependence, and begging from foreign powers cannot save a people, guarantee the future of a people, protect a people, solve the development problems of a people, or the problems of a citizen or a family.

This can only be done by serious work, and as far as we are concerned unionist work, in order to bring together the scattered people of this nation. We are holding discussions today to forge unity and to make the future of the Arab nation and we are confident in ourselves and of our potentialities. The 7 November movement has confirmed that the persistence of the anti-Arab forces with their challenges, provocation and arrogance—such as the repeated Israeli raids against the Palestinian positions inside the Tunisian home, inside sovereign Tunisian territory—have confirmed that they are counterproductive for the enemies. They believed that with this they would frighten us; however, the reverse happened. They provoked us with this arrogance and there was anger, revolution and change in Tunisia.

As you see today a tent is attached to this house. An official reception is to be held tonight for a head of state. This house used to be a residence for heads of state during their visits to Libya. The greatest Western state, the United States, attacked this house with the greatest air fleet backed by all the NATO bases. There could have been a banquet like this one on that night, and a head of state could have been asleep in this house. But the imperialists, the Yankees, have no ethics. They suffer from the folly of power. As in the Israeli raids against Tunisia, their aim was to intimidate us, so that we would bow our heads. But the reverse happened: We challenged them, and their act came as a provocation to all the revolutionary forces in the world. Blows were dealt to the United States everywhere from forces that have no links with Libya and that we do not know. The United States was attacked in all the continents of the world, and attacks still continue against the United States and Britain from forces that have neither links nor ties with Libya and which we do not know.

But these forces know that Libya is an international platform for the international popular revolution, and that the Libyan people are people aspiring to freedom and peace, people which have been wronged. They also know that U.S. imperialism transgressed against and killed innocent children. Therefore, all the children of the small and weak peoples are on the murder list. There still is a mad imperialist force. And thus, in defense of the children that have not yet been martyred, not killed yet, the freemen and revolutionaries of the world dealt blows to the United States and to Britain everywhere. They still continue to do so, and the international struggle against imperialism will continue until the latter disappears, because people aspire to peace, freedom, growth and abundance. But imperialism wants to turn everywhere to its own interest. It wants to kill all in order to survive.

These acts, which victimized the Tunisian, Palestinian, Libyan and Lebanese peoples, have failed to tame us, to subjugate us. Quite the reverse: They have yielded bad results for their perpetrators. They have yielded revolution in Tunisia; they increased challenges in Libya, and support increased in the world around the Libyan revolution, while hatred and hostility increased against the United States and Britain. And the struggle of these peoples continue.

Brother president: I say once again, as I said during the opening session, a few hours ago, that words do not give you enough credit for the historic action undertaken by you and your collegues, action around which the brave Tunisian people rallied, people who were helpless and whose will was falsified. They were also oppressed.

The 7th of November did not come from a vacuum. It was a natural reply to the betrayal of the Jerba Declaration. After the cancellation of the Jerba Declaration, despite the will of the Tunisian and the Libyan people in 1974, the students' revolt erupted in Tunisia before the students' revolt in Libya. The students' revolt broke out in Tunisia in 1975. University students were tortured in Tunisia. That students' revolt came as a reaction to the abortion of the unity of the two countries.

In 1978 came the workers' revolt in Tunisia, yet another escalation of the popular revolution against acts of aborting unity and falsifying the will of the Arab people. Then in 1980 came the armed revolt in Qafsah, which expressed with blood and gunfire the wrath of the Tunisian people. Then came the bread revolt in 1984, and in 1987 the revolt of Muslim fundamentalism. These continuous links in the chain of popular revolt led by the Arab people in Tunisia were crowned by 7 November. It was 7 November that revenged the university martyrs who fell in 1975. It came as a crowning of the students' revolt, of the workers' martyrs. It came also as a crowning of the workers' revolt in Tunisia in 1978, of the armed revolt by the martyrs of Qafsah in 1980. It was revenge for the martyrs of the bread revolt in 1984. It was a response to the fundamentalism that expressed itself in the revolt of the fundamentalists in 1987.

Thus, Brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was the good son of the Arab people in Tunisia, loyal to the struggles of the Arab people in Tunisia, who responded to the aspirations of the masses of students and toiling men. The Arab people in Libya express to you not with words but through the feelings of pleasure seen today, through sweat and cheers, they express to you all these meanings.

Brother President, you are the one who coined the slogan "Maghreb without borders." Every citizen in the Arab Maghreb adopted this slogan. All your families today in Libya made themselves the placards with which they met you: "Maghreb without borders." The slogans of unity are spreading like fire in dry sticks of wood. But the isolationist and regional slogans are dying, together with their bearers, and they end up in the ash heap of history.

Your move on 7 November made the masses of the Arab nation everywhere confident that the people, despite attempts to frustrate their will and despite heavy shackles on their hands, legs, and necks, will someday break the bonds, and their sacrifices will not be in vain, and the aspirations of the people, expressed in sweat and even blood—as happened recently in Tunisia—will be fulfilled. This gives us confidence in the struggle of the masses, even if they were oppressed, and even if the revolution seems to have failed.

The fire remains alive beneath the ashes until the storm comes and exposes the live cinders. The day of 7 November gave confidence to the Arab people in Tunisia, the Arab Maghreb, the Arab world, and in Africa, where many peoples struggle for liberation and salvation to rid themselves of hegemony, dictatorship, and isolation. This is priceless. The day of 7 November gave Arab hope a boost, which is priceless, and contributed to victory over the despair that previals over many of the peoples of the Arab nation. All the tyrants will fall, one after another. The United States cannot save its closest agent and most despicable and subservient one. They are falling, and the United States is watching. The rest of the agents should see a lesson in what happened in Libya, Tunisia, and Sudan. Their fate will be similar to the fate of these examples and these idols. Who among them could trust, after these lessons, that the United States, France, Britain, or any other power who has followers could save them from falling before the march of the masses?

In addition to all this, 7 November gave the opportunity for the two fraternal countries to meet. They are one people, one country, and one homeland upon which false isolation and hatred were imposed. 7 November gave us this opportunity, in addition to the chance to work toward achieving unity between them, Arab Maghreb unity, and Arab national unity, to put the resources of Libya and Tunisia at the service of the people, the cause of the Palestinian Arab people, the cause of the peoples of the Arab nation, the African peoples. Since 7 November, we march together. We were alone in this region, but now we march together, more than one, more than two, and we are now an effective force for the establishment of the Arab Maghreb and Arab unity.

Brother President, you are shouldering a great responsibility in the struggle by your friendship to your Palestinian brothers, the refugees from occupied Palestine. It is a pan-Arab responsibility which is shouldered by the Arab people in Tunisia, and you are personally shouldering it by embracing your Palestinian brothers. Through this Tunisia entered the confrontation with the Israeli enemy, and became a frontline country, as Libya is a frontline country against the United States, not to mention the Israelis. Tunisia has become a direct frontline country against the Israelis.

When the world now says Israel, it means the United States, and when it says the United States it means Israel. We cannot deceive ourselves or be deceived by anyone that there is any difference whatsoever between the so-called Israel and the United States. Even the non-Arabs—let us ask any observer in the world—he cannot find a difference between the so-called Israel and the United States. When Tunisia is in the frontline against the Israelis, then it has come into the frontline against the United States. Indeed, the U.S. 6th Fleet used its resources and made the Israeli raid on Tunis possible. The United States is still putting its resources at the disposal of the Israelis to strike at Tunisia and any other Arab country standing by its Palestinian brother.

If the United States, on one hand, claims that it is our friend, and on the other hand grants all its economic and military resources and means of destruction to the Israelis in order to hit (?us), then this is a mockery of our

minds. This means that the United States is mocking us and thinks that we are children. It extends one hand to us and stabs us in the back with the other. This means that we are fools. We deny this description. We know that the United States is the mortal enemy of the Arab nation and is the defender of the Zionist entity, together with the other European countries, which enabled this enemy to manufacture the nuclear bomb. Now it enables the enemy to manufacture missiles which could reach every Arab capital.

We cannot believe that the United States gives assistance to Tunis and gives a missile to the Israelis to destroy Tunis. If we believe that, then we will be as the United States thinks, children or fools. In this case we say that the United States is the fool because it thinks that this will deceive us.

In this regard there is nothing to stop us supporting the establishment of a Palestinian government. I asked the Palestinians some years ago to form a Palestinian government and to make the Palestinian resistance forces into a Palestinian liberation army, and to make the PLO representatives in the world into ambassadors of the Palestinian people. Through this we would underline that there is a people, the Palestinian people, and that there is a government, the Palestinian government, and there is an army, the Palestinian liberation army, and that there is an occupied land, Palestine. We will talk about that in the future.

In addition it is important to declare our support for the acceptance of a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, but at the same time we express our disgust with the lack of crediblity of this war, which was unreasonable at the beginning and has remained so, as shown by its actions at its end—until what we think is its end. The continuation of the fighting, in spite of the acceptance by both sides of the UN Security Council resolution on a cease-fire, is in fact ridiculous, does not deserve respect, and the world is nearly washing its hands of this war and leaving it to fall on the heads of those fighting it. Reason and wisdom have steered away from this war.

Iran has accepted the cease-fire at the insistence of Libya and accepted the Security Council resolution. Now I can say that forces from Algeria, Indonesia and Nigeria, Islamic forces which were suggested by Libya, and with the supervision of Libya, are able to implement the cease-fire in the Gulf more than the miserable attempts of the UN secretary general, [words indistinct], more than the failed attempts of the Security Council.

In actual fact, the cease-fire itself does not interest us as much as we are interested in dedicating these forces to fighting the real enemy in the region—the Israeli enemy, which has started now to arm itself with nuclear weapons, and now the United States enables it to manufacture missiles with a range of 400km which are directed against the Arab homeland from the Ocean to the Gulf, including Iran. This requires confrontation with the base of aggression and dealing with this danger.

In addition, as Africans, when we meet we do no forget Africa and its problems, burdens and our duty to help it. Today we talked, and tomorrow, God willing, we will also talk, about our African duty towards Africa, of unlimited support for the struggle of the African people in South Africa and in Namibia, and the necessity of granting Namibia immediate independence without any conditions, and support SWAPO's armed struggle to liberate Namibia.

We also talked about Chad and we will talk more about it. We stress the Libyan initiative on the OAU's silver jubilee. Libya is committed to this initiative. Libya insists on extending a helping hand to the Chadian people. Libya was involved in a Chadian war in Chad. Libya was involved in a Chadian internal war for quite reasonable reasons: FROLINA, the Chadian national liberation movement, was fighting against minority control, which was supported by France. However, after divisions appeared in FROLINA, Libya became involved in the fighting between the factions of FROLINA. Now Libya has enough courage to declare this and to declare that it is neutral in the Chadian conflict. We know that the greatest problem facing Chad now is the conflict between Goukouni and Habre. However, after our talks today, we can announce that the conflict between Goukouni and Habre is an internal conflict, a Chadian-Chadian conflict, which has nothing to do with Libya. Libya cannot make settling the conflict between the two sides a condition for normalizing its relations with Chad.

Libya declares its readiness, before Brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, to open a people's bureau in N'Djamena and to accept an embassy from N'Djamena in Libya, and to completely normalize relations without making the settlement of the conflict between Goukouni and Habre a condition for that. We can declare that the conflict between them is an internal one, and Libya is not interested whether this conflict continues by war or peace. Libya will not interfere in this unless the conflicting Chadian sides asked it to participate in a peaceful solution. Then this will be our duty.

In this meeting, we stress that we stand with all our resources by the uprising of our people in Palestine. We call on them to extend the uprising all over the area from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea and from southern Lebanon to southern Palestine under the slogan: Liberation from the south to the south and from the river to the sea. We call on the generation of anger which leads the revolution in Palestine to secretly sabotage the institutions of the enemy, to carry out secret sabotage in the institutions of the Zionist enemy and to carry out secret violent resistance, to engage in popular rejection and civil disobedience.

We will do our utmost to mobilize the resources of the Arab nation behind the uprising of the Palestinian people. We, the Arabs, cannot sleep as long as Palestine is occupied, because the existence of the Zionist enemy on the land of Palestine not only is a danger to the Palestinians, but is also a danger to all Arabs. This is a usurpation of part of the Arab homeland and a blatant aggression by the world on Arabs. We should not pay for the crime of Hitler. We do not accept dividing the world on a religious basis, letting the followers of every religion establish a state for themselves. Even if this were to happen, we do not accept that these states should be established at the expense of others. Even if the world decided to establish a state for the Jews, we refuse to accept that this should be at the expense of us, the Arabs. Those who want to establish this state on a religious basis, let them donate a part of their land to establish this religious state. This should not be at the expense of the Arab people.

Let the armed struggle between us and the enemy continue. We would rather accept being annihilated in battle than allowing a time bomb to be planted within the Arab homeland which would lead to successive explosions at our expense. We declare that the conflict is a conflict for survival and not for borders. Anyone who says otherwise is a liar, hypocrite, and coward, who wants to falsify the facts and will fall—as Al-Sadat fell, as King 'Abdallah fell, as Nuri al-Sa'id, and all those who wanted to falsify the truth, fell.

We cannot decieve ourselves and (?claim) that there is peace. The so-called international conference is the biggest deception, particularly since the PLO does not enjoy the status of an independent delegation. Even if it did have such status, the international conference remains a deception which would ensure the imposition of Camp David on the Arabs. Hence, Libya rejects it and stands in solidarity with the Palestinian revolution forces in their rejection of the international conference deception.

We do not negotiate with the Israelis except within the United Nations and at its forum only. On the ground there is nothing between us except fighting. The Arab nation has confidence in itself and in its capability to continue the struggle regardless of time. It possesses the human and material strength and has the right to continue the struggle for the just cause, and it will triumph in the end.

As for our two countries, dear brother, let the ambassadors of foreign countries and the guests hear this: There is no problem between Tunisia and Libya since 7 November. There is unity existing now between the two peoples without declaration, and political unity between us without a constitution. This is not an action imposed by us, but rather reality; we are one throne, one people, one family. It was falseness and thoughtlessness that separated us, and now, since that falseness has fallen, the truth remains: Namely, we are brothers.

We welcome you once more, brother president, hero of 7 November, and we wish that you will prolong your stay among your brothers in Libya so that the Libyans will know you and your country better. Libya is open to you, and you can speak to the Libyans at the people's congresses, at the people's committees, at the revolutionary committees, and on television and radio.

We should take this opportunity to express to you, in your country Libya, the appreciation and support you can personally ascertain, and I express tonight my overwhelming happiness and the happiness of all Libyans at your presence among them. May God guide you toward success. [applause]

JANA Editor Urges Boycott of Murphy Tour

LD0508104888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Aug JANA—JANA's Arab Affairs editor has called for a boycott of the dubious tour which the U.S. Administration's envoy has begun in the Arab region.

Commenting on this tour, the editor said that such a boycott would be the first response to the U.S. Administration's persistence in provoking the Arabs and disregarding their rights. This decision should then be followed by another firm move toward a complete boycott of the United States.

The editor added that those who have been following the recent developments in our Arab region would undoubtedly sense the escalation of U.S. hostility toward the Arab nation. Some of this hostility could be summed up in the following:

1. The signing by the U.S. Administration of a series of strategic agreements with the Zionist enemy.

2. The announcement by the U.S. Administration that it is participating in the production of Zionist long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

3. The senseless racist campaign conducted by the U.S. Government to prevent the Arab countries from obtaining weapons to reinforce their defensive capabilities.

4. The U.S.-Zionist military maneuvers in the Mediterranean and the landing of over 4,000 U.S. troops on the shores of occupied Palestine from five U.S. naval units in preparation for wide-scale joint maneuvers between U.S. forces and Zionist forces of occupation on the soil of Arab Palestine.

The Arab Affairs editor also indicated that the U.S. Administration was trying to bypass the results of the Algiers emergency summit, which clearly exposed the previous dubious tour of the U.S. Secretary of State in the region and which unanimously rejected and boycotted the dubious plans he was carrying with him.

The editor added that the U.S. Administration was repeating this tactic through the present dubious tour of its envoy in the region with a view to achieving the following goals:

1. To foil the uprising, which is led by the generation of anger through their people's committees in occupied Palestine and which has now entered its ninth month, with all vigor.

2. To attenuate the stand of the Arabs who have become aware of the dangers of the U.S. plan against the Arab nation as the U.S. malevolent policy against the Arabs and their absolute support for the Zionist foes have been exposed.

The editor went on to say that not a day went by without the U.S. Administration proving to be an institution for managing official terrorism; a model for evil; a hotbed for exporting social, economic, and political misery; and for spreading destruction in the world.

The editor concluded his commentary by saying that just the thought of sending a U.S. envoy to the Arab countries was a sign of disdain for the Arabs and for Arab awareness as a whole, and that the only way for the Arabs to end this disdain and compel the United States to respect their nation would be to take a firm stand toward the U.S. Administration with a complete boycott of U.S. policy.

Kuwait

Governnment Welcomes Iraqi Cease-Fire Acceptance

LD0708135488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1223 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 7 (KUNA)—Kuwait on Sunday welcomed Iraq's acceptance of a ceasefire with Iran followed by direct peace talks on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a peaceful settlement of their eight-year old conflict.

Cabinet spokesman State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-Aziz al-Rashid told reporters that Kuwait, while commending the Iraqi move announced by President Saddam Husayn yesterday, wishes to see peace reigning in the entire Arabian Gulf region.

"Kuwait, while praising this honorable initiative stemming from a big spirit of responsibility, believes the move provides an entry into the peace process and rebuilds bridges of trust between the peoples of the region to restore peace on the basis of Islamic fraternity and good neighborliness," said a cabinet statement read by Al-Rashid.

The statement also heaped praise on the peace-making efforts of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and called on the big powers of the Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities towards restoring peace and stability in the Arabian Gulf region.

Al-Rashid pointed out that in the course of discussions on current efforts to mediate peace in the Gulf war, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah briefed the cabinet on last week's meetings in Baghdad of an Arab league committee assigned to follow up developments of the Iran-Iraq war.

In today's meeting the cabinet highly valued the outcome of last month's visit to the U.S. by Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Premier H.H. Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, saying the trip enhanced Kuwait's international stature.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-Aziz al-Rashid told reporters that the cabinet meeting today under the chairmanship of H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah expressed belief that the visit had been helpful to Kuwaiti and Arab interests.

During the week-long official visit, Shaykh Sa'd had talks with President Ronald Reagan, Vice-President George Bush and other top administration officials.

Arms Deal Amendments With U.S. Approved

LD0608134888 Kuwait KUNA in English 1225 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Aug 6 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad announced Saturday Kuwait's approval of amendments on the arms deal with the United States. Shaykh al-Sabah told reporters that the alteration coincided with Kuwait's interests.

Kuwait had officially tabled an arms request with the U.S. to purchase 40 F-18 aircraft and affiliated missiles and bombs at a cost of 1.9 billion dollars. The deal was opposed by pro-Israel congressmen that led the Congress to veto inclusion of the advanced Maverick missiles in the deal.

However, the visit of H.H. Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah to Washington last month persuaded neutral parties in Congress to pass the deal after affirming that the arms will be used to defend Kuwait and not for any other purposes. [passage omitted]

Minister Comments on Arms Deal With Egypt

LD0708104788 Kuwait KUNA in English 0802 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 7 (KUNA)—Minister of Defence [title as received] Nawwaf al-Ahmad said that the recent Kuwaiti-Egyptian arms deal is regarded as the largest weapon agreement between any Arab country and Cairo.

The deal focused on armoured vehicles (Fahd) and sophisticated air defence system (Amun), he added in an interview with Al-SIYASAH daily newspaper published here Sunday.

Questioned about the extent of military cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council member states Shaykh Nawwaf stressed "I am optimistic that the GCC will create an integrated military force between them".

About the GCC military conference to be held in October, the minister said that discussions will center on the consequences of the end of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

Asked about the foreign fleets in the Gulf, the minister anticipated them to retreat after the termination of the 8 year devastating war since there will no longer be any necessity for their presence.

Concerning the United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, he said that this resolution can be fully implemented if the superpowers so incline, adding "it's now time for peace, this is the feeling of the GCC leaders and people".

Shaykh Nawwaf said that the 8 year Iraqi-Iranian war had harmed the economies of the region, triggering acute stagnation. But the end of the conflict will reflect positively on all parts of the region, the shaykh concluded.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives on 'Official Visit'

LD0808082288 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0742 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait 8 Aug (KUNA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Kuwait today on an official visit. The visit was not announced in advance.

He was received at the airport by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Khalid Ahmad al-Jasar and a number of officials of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department.

Navy Detonates Sea Mine Near Umm al-Maradim

JN0608075388 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 4 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ANBA' has learned that a Kuwaiti naval force discovered a sea mine some 15 km east of Umm al-Maradim Island at 1630 yesterday. A special force immediately detonated it at 1830 yesterday while Kuwaiti naval patrols carried out a large-scale search operation in the area to make sure that there are no other mines in Kuwaiti territorial waters.

It was learned that the mine is an old one that was laid in the past and was washed into the area by water currents.

Oman

Minister of State Leaves on Visit to Iran

JN0608074988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0727 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Muscat, 6 Aug (WAKH)—Yusuf ibn 'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, left Muscat for Tehran this morning on a visit to Iran. ONA, which carried this report, did not give more details.

Yemen Arab Republic

Saddam Husayn's Initiative on War Welcomed

JN0808083788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] The YAR has received with deep satisfaction the statement issued by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn announcing Iraq's acceptance of the cease-fire. Iran has not agreed to direct negotiations between the two countries to implement the Security Council resolution to achieve permanent peace between the two countries.

The Iraqi president's initiative reiterates fraternal Iraq's concern to end the 8-year-old destructive war between Iraq and Iran.

As the YAR praises this initiative which proves anew the peaceful course which Iraq is trying to achieve in Iraqi-Iranian relations, it hopes that Iranian officials' response to this new positive initiative will bring about an end to this war and the beginning of peaceful coexistence between the Iraqi and Iranian people.

The YAR also appeals to the world community represented by the United Nations to swiftly implement UN Resolution No 598 which constitutes a sound framework to end the war and establish a permanent peace in the Gulf region.

President Salih Returns From Baghdad

JN0408195788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, arrived in the city of Al-Hudaydah from Baghdad this afternoon under God's care and protection along with his accompanying delegation following a visit to fraternal Iraq. During the visit he held talks with his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and senior Iraqi officials dealing with a number of pan-Arab and international issues and developments. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Declares 'Readiness' for Cease-Fire

JN0608163688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Aug 88

["Text" of message by President Saddam Husayn addressed to "the Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and the world" on 6 August—read by announcer]

[Text] O great Iraqi people, O Arab brothers wherever you are, O valiant men of our courageous Armed Forces:

You recall how the war between Iraq and Iran was sparked—with Iraq fighting on behalf of the Arabs, Iran fighting as an enemy of the Arab nation and the honest Arab yearning for peace and development. You also recall how hate, evil, greed, illusion, and expansionism scorched the land and allowed a lot of blood to spill, not only in Iran and Iraq but in the entire region. You recall, brothers, that while we, men and women, rose to defend the values of Iraq and the Arab nation's rights to life and honorable aspirations and we smashed one barbaric wave after another, the slogan of peace—and a burning desire to achieve it—went hand in hand with victory and Iraq's mounting capability.

The banner of peace was held by the Iraqis, proud of the blood in their veins. In the meantime, Iraq was backed by the prayers of good Arabs that victory be ours. Iraq was also supported by Arab contributions to enhance its fighting capabilities in a bloody conflict lasting 8 years. Days and nights were full of bloodshed and other sacrifices. Iraqi soldiers have achieved glories that have earned them a place alongside the salt of the earth. They deserve to attain the twin gains of this world and the hereafter.

You must remember all this how Iran's leaders were prisoners of the devil and arrogance. They lost their balance by failing to be guided by God's word—the way good believers are—especially when they were in a position of strength. You must also recall how they used to misconstrue all our peace calls and rational arguments on peace with the international community as weakness and fear. They misunderstood us, although as an ancient nation there is nothing in our military history to suggest that we are what they describe.

These illusions and the lies and slurs uttered by the charlatans against the dignity of Iraq and the Arab nation have not made us budge from the slogans of peace and its concepts. They have not made us budge from our genuine desire to see peace established without delay since peace is fundamental to our approach to life and war. As we have said before, the war was not of our own choosing. It was a true expression of the genuinness of our people and nation.

Under the pressure of their hateful actions and objectives, the Iranian officials continued to reject and ignore peace calls and all resolutions issued by international and regional forums—starting with their rejection of the UN Security Council Resolution issued on 28 September 1980 and ending with their rejection of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 issued on 20 July 1987. However, whether Iraq was inside Iran's territory, or on the border defending the people, the nation, and the sanctities, or whether the armies of aggression were inside our national territory, Iraq has always agreed on all international and regional resolutions to achieve peace.

Throughout the expansion and diversity of battles during this war, the Iraqi people have become more aware and have deepened their faith in victory and are optimistic about the future. They also have had very strong and unshakeable faith in their national pan-Arab and humanitarian cause, especially since they are right and God is with them since they have followed the path of truth and objectivity—as they were required to do when we were forced to wage war ignited by the invaders from the east. We had strong confidence before we had to deal with the details of the war through all the stages of fighting and the very difficult circumstances.

We were also sure that the Iranian people would arrive at the same conclusion concerning our assessment of matters and persons, that they would eventually realize the volume of delusion, evil, and aggression that existed in the officials in Iran when they began the war. We were sure that their reactions to all this would be violent, would lead to the achievement of peace from another position, and they would end the war together with the steadfast, heroic Iraqis who watered the tree of freedom and who, through great sacrifices, helped the Iranians discover the truth.

This was what we had deduced earlier, along with the Iranian people's discovery that the Iraqis are friends of the people and advocates of an exalted message. This Arab message advocates brotherhood, amity, goodness, and peace. It is based on faith in God, His holy books, messengers, and the day of judgment.

We were sure the Iranian people would discover that their rulers harbored evil intentions and treachery against Iraqis and impudently exercised their authority, belittling the Iranians' blood—not only the blood of Iraqis and Arabs. Previous events, as well as what was said and recorded about them, strongly prove the soundness of all our conclusions. Today's events—during which we address this message to you, brothers—also confirms our conclusions to all aware and thoughtful ones.

We note once again that the Security Council issued Resolution No 598 on 20 July 1987. Iraq accepted this resolution, whereas Iranian authorities rejected it. The Iranian authorities behaved toward the resolutions issued by the Security Council with little or no feeling of responsibility and they also showed disregard and even contempt of both the international organizations and international law. Viewing the international and regional resolutions in this way, Iranian authorities did not forget to utter rude words and abuses and also behaved in a way meant to humiliate Arabs

and Iraq and even all mankind. The Iranian authorities behaved on the basis of their beliefs. They believe that tyranny, imposture, and charlatanism can replace the rights of both God and mankind.

Furthermore, Iranian rulers continued their imbalanced policy, arrogance, empty haughtiness, and intransigence when, after all these years of war—a war which targeted our people, land, and sanctities—they managed to occupy Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], the Majnun Islands, Al-Zubaydat, Halabjah, some mountain traverses, and other border areas. The Iranian rulers were also overwhelmed by illusions and imagined they were about to realize their evil dreams and expand their empire of false slogans and superstitions.

However, God was lying in wait and the earth shook beneath them. The men of Iraq—in the name of God and on behalf of the values of mankind, honor, and the honorable, pure, and sincere creed—vied with each other and dealt fatal blows to those who deserved them. Hence, the Iranian troops were crushed in Al-Faw in the "Ramadan Mubarak" [Blessed Ramadan] operations. Their troops and war machines were also crushed on the largest scale in the operations of "Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah" [We Relied on God] I, II, III, and IV during which our valiant Armed Forces succesfully liberated our dear national lands in Al-Shalamjah, the Majnun Islands, Al-Zubaydat, Sayf Sa'd, (Sanubah), and other lands.

Meanwhile, the "Muhammad Rasul Allah" operations liberated our land in northern Iraq. These were a direct or indirect result of the "Ramadan Mubarak" operations and the "Tawakkalna 'Ali Allah" operations which were carried out in Halabjah and in the mountain traverses and peaks in the I Army Corps sector and then in the V Army Corps sector in northern and eastern Iraq.

After all these lightning and destructive operations—which wiped out the bulk of the forces prepared for treachery and expansion as well as their war machine—thunder, or something stronger, fell on the heads of Iran's rulers. Confusion and shock spread in the circles of the rulers, who had raised the slogan "war until victory." This slogan was aimed at occupying Iraq and destroying the Arab nation's present and future and threatening world security and peace. After a while they discovered two facts:

First, Iraq's people—the people of glories, culture, and high values—cannot be deceived by futile slogans and goods; the Arab nation will provide the Iraqi people with all potentials and morale derived from history and the present; the ability of these noble people is increasing; and the slogan of peace raised by our people is based on an unlimited capability for and unwavering confidence in peace.

Second, they also have found that their people have discovered their charlatanism, goals, aggressive intentions, and responsibility for igniting the war. The Iranian people and the Iranian Armed Forces also discovered that Iraq's people, the Arab nation, and the Iraqi Armed Forces have no war ambitions, and the Iraqi people have nothing to do with what the Iranian people choose as a way of life. The Iranian rulers, and the Iranian Armed Forces and the formations of the Revolutionary Guards in Iran have discovered that the Iranian people reject the slogan of "war, war until the crushing and destruction of Iraq and the Arab nation."

They also reject the path of destruction and want the honorable life offered to them by Iraq. This life has been called for throughout all the fighting, even after the total victory in the battles of glory from mid-April to mid-July this year. As a result, the evildoers' dreams have completely collapsed. On the basis of these facts—not on the basis of their deep desire for peace as a way of natural life and relations between nations and peoples—Iran's rulers have agreed on Resolution No 598.

O Arab and Iraqi brothers, O good ones and peace lovers around the world, O peoples who are suffering under the yoke of your rulers in Iran.

If you observe the policies, slogans, speeches, and statements of Iraqi officials of all levels since the rulers of Iran started the war, you will find them free of any territorial ambitions in Iran or any desire to export policies or trends through aggression. You will also find that our policy and calls for peace have essentially remained unchanged, both when the going was rough as I have indicated and when our Armed Forces and people were scoring the greatest victories of liberation in modern history during these 8 years. In contrast, you will find that the goals and slogans of Iran's rulers have changed according to the war's progress: Their appetite for aggression and expansion grew with every battlefield success they scored no matter how heavy the losses they sustained. You will find that the goals and slogans of Iran's rulers are based on expansion, aggression, and greed. This has been the case for over 8 years now.

It will emerge from this comparison that Iraq wants peace, since it believes that peace is the right route to life if it is given the chance. It will also emerge that whereas Iraq accepted all peace decisions, including UN Security Council Resolution No 598, out of a desire for peace, Iranian rulers spurned all peace resolutions and initiatives beginning with the 28 September 1980 UN Security Council resolution and ending with Resolution No 598—which it only accepted 1 year after it was passed and following its military reverses and Iraq's victories.

Iran does not want peace. Coming after all this rejection, Iran's consent to Resolution No 598 does not necessarily amount to acceptance of peace. Nor does it mean that Iranian officials see peace as their only option. It also does not mean that relations of amity and mutual respect will replace the export of Iranian concepts, policies, and slogans of violence, killing, and war.

We know that the successive victories of the Iraqi Armed Forces shook Iran and has had a profound impact and that the Iranian people's realization of many facts—despite the Iranian rulers' desire to continue the war under false slogans—may push these rulers to follow the road of peace. We also know that if they come to the road of peace regardless of their wishes, we should not close this road in their face or drop such a possibility from our calculations.

However, the statement on the r approval of Resolution 598 and Khomeyni's message accepting this resolution as well as the senior Iranian officials' speeches were all devoid of any confirmation that peace should be the road to a normal relationship between the Iraqi people and Arab nation and the Iranian people. They did not refer to the fact that concluding a peace agreement free of selfish aims, rancor, intrigues, games, and trickery is an unreplaceable road. Moreover, Khomeyni's decision in this regard and the statements of all Iranian officials focused on the background and motives behind their approval of Resolution 598 and on the compelling circumstances leading to it, without speaking about all the reasons and circumstances.

You recall how Khomeyni said in his speech that he accepted the Security Council Resolution 598 as if he were taking poison and how he described his situation by saying: O how miserable my condition is. You recall how they pushed their Consultative Council to legislate a law considering war a permanent Iranian strategy only 13 days before Khomeyni's approval of the Security Council resolution. You also recall how the officials likened Khomeyni's approval of it with the Al-Hudaybiyah peace pact [concluded between Prophet Muhammad and his opponents]. From this, Iranian intentions become clear. Let failure be the outcome of what they do.

All this, brethren, made us ask for direct negotiations and reject a truce, bearing in mind all their expansionist, aggressive policies and our nation's bitter experience with the forces which favor certain political aspects, interpretations, and resolutions in the international forums, and recalling our natural right as well as the right of all warriors to sit at the table of direct negotiations to discuss the steps and concept of peace. All this made us seek direct negotiations as an expression of good will. This is an initial test of intentions to see whether the Iranian rulers' approval of the Security Council resolution is meant to establish a complete, comprehensive, and lasting peace devoid of personal aims and ambitions against Iraq and the Arab nation, or if it is meant—as they announced—to alleviate military, national, and international pressure on them.

We want direct negotiations because they are the shortest route to peace and the most useful formula. An indirect route might entail games, slyness, and treachery which will come to light only afterward. Because we want peace—now that its basic requirements have become available—we do not want a temporary truce that distances us from peace and complicates its means. Direct negotiations before an official cease-fire is the safest and most guaranteed and just route for both Iraq and Iran. Our Arab brothers' have expressed profound understanding and made great pan-Arab efforts in support of our policy on all levels and in various countries.

Many countries as well as the world public understood our policy and Iraq's sincere desire for peace. We have depended on an inexhaustible amount of the Iraqi people's awareness, patience, perseverance, and capability. We have found out that winning over the Iranian people and forces to the preservation of peace, and keeping the unbiased world public opinion and international forums on our side may help us uncover the Iranian rulers' intentions so that nobody will be deluded into believing that the great victory of our people, nation, and Armed Forces may, God forbid, bring any feature or factor of vanity or viciousness to the decisionmakers in Iraq.

Following consultations with the Arab brothers and a series of meetings by the RCC and the party's Regional Command and at a time when we have borne in mind all necessary alertness and caution, we have relied on God, the glorious Iraqis, and the support of the Arabs and declared our readiness for a cease-fire. This is provided that Iran will clearly, unequivocally, and officially announce its agreement to hold direct negotiations with us directly after the cease-fire so that we can discuss, agree, and implement all of UN Security Council Resolution No 598—with the exception of the cease-fire. This will begin with withdrawal from the international border up to the eighth paragraph and all other operative paragraphs.

If Iran rejects direct negotiations by an explicit, clear announcement conveyed to us officially via the Security Council or the UN Secretary General, it will again prove to the world and the Iranian people in particular that it alone is again responsible for the shedding of further blood and the rejection of honorable peace. The losers' arrows will miss their targets as they did before. But if they announce their readiness to accept our initiative and agree clearly and officially to enter into direct negotiations to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 with all its operative clauses, we, along with our great people, our glorious Arab nation, and our valiant Armed Forces, will be happy as we were happy with the splendid military victory based on faith in right and justice and avoidance of deviation, haughtiness, and injustice.

We will agree to a UN technical team. UN forces will be stationed between our forces and the Iranian Armed Forces under the sponsorship of the UN Secretary General until each returns to a normal life and lasting and comprehensive peace is attained.

It is natural to say that we will benefit from Shatt al-'Arab in accordance with our inalienable rights and to benefit from the Arabian Gulf in accordance with international law immediately after the cease-fire.

By this, we once again throw the ball into the Iranian rulers' court and stress to the Iranian people and the Iranian Armed Forces that—while we shattered their oppressive dreams and fought capably in defense of dignity and homeland and destroyed those who encroached on or humiliated our nation, people, and Armed Forces—we cannot make anyone feel that we mean to humiliate him. We understand that the Iraqi people and the Arab nation are geographically Iran's neighbors, and Iran's geography and people cannot depart and dismantle this geographic relationship, nor can Iraq and the Arab nation depart from their place.

We understand history and deeply appreciate it. We know that history is in one way or another a basic creed of nations and peoples and the basis of their policies. Today's present will become the history of the future and the bitterness of the feeling of humility and oppression is unbearable. Accordingly, and due to reasons connected with our glorious history—nation and people—and reasons deeply linked to our creed, and recalling what satisfies God, we extend a hand of friendship, tolerance, and peace to the Iranian people, regardless of the bitterness in our hearts because of the aggression and encroachment inflicted on us as a nation. We will unhesitatingly remain more than a match for those who commit aggression on us and our nation.

God is great. God knows how sincere our purpose is. Let the lowly be accursed.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, 6 August 1988, corresponding to 23 Dhi al-Hijjah 1408 Hegira.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,285

JN0508161488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1602 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Communique No 3,285 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The results of the combat activities of our victorious Armed Forces last night and today are as follows:

1. Thirty enemy personnel were either killed or wounded in the I Army Corps northern sector. One more enemy soldier was killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

2. One vehicle was set on fire and destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. Also, one four-barreled machine gun was destroyed and its crewmen were killed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

3. One medium machine gun emplacement was destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

4. The heroic men of the Al-'Amiq port force confronted 10 Iranian boats that attempted to approach the port yesterday and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 August 1988

Communique No 3,286

JN0608171688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Communique No 3,286 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 August]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

[Introductory passage omitted]

Following are our units' activities last night and today:

1. Our brave helicopter gunships flew 64 combat missions today, inflicting new losses on the aggressors. They then returned safely to their bases. God be praised.

2. Ten enemy personnel were killed and others were wounded in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. Our naval observation posts spotted four enemy boats. After a quick maneuver by our naval untis to confront them, the enemy boats fled toward the Iranian coast.

4. A number of Iranian military personnel took refuge with our forward positions and were evacuated safely to the rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 August 1988

Communique No 3,287

JN0708162288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Communique No 3,287 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Following are our units' overall activities last night and today:

1. The brave men of the Al-'Amiq port, strongly supported by our brave naval units, confronted 11 Iranian boats that tried to approach the port yesterday. The brave men clashed with the boats, destroying and sinking two boats in the Arabian Gulf waters, while the rest of the boats fled toward the Iranian coast.

2. One large enemy infantry position was destroyed in I Army Corps northern sector and eight various positions were destroyed and their occupants killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

3. The aggressors in the VII Army Corps front killed one person, destroyed one machine gun emplacement and one observation post, and blew up one ammunition dump.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 August 1988

Recent Iranian Losses Detailed

JN0608102088 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Statement issued by a military spokesman dated 6 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The quantties of weapons, hardware, equipment seized by the brave Presidential Guard Forces, the brave Special I Army Corps Forces, the brave II Army Corps Forces, and the brave III Army Corps in the Wa Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah-IV operations is as follows: Nineteen surface-to-surface missiles; 273 tanks; 241 armored personnel carriers; Five bridge-forming vehicles; 49 self-propelled guns; 199 guns of various types; 59 rocket launchers; 867 mortars of different types; 344 anti-tank guns; 1,485 light launchers; Three grenade launchers; 384 (Sterlla) bases; 1,024 machine guns of various types; 21,455 rifles; 85 pistols; 49 illumination pistols; 4,755 protective masks; 5,469 protective mask filters; 855 binoculars; 2,254 radios; 68 field telephones; 141 different communications sets; 806 helmets; 49 water canteens; 1,160 vehicles of various types; 68 different trailers; 15 different generators; 70 pieces of engineering equipment; 10 pieces of agricultural equipment; 15 motorcycles; 12 typewriters; 115 compass cases; 30,137 anti-tank missiles; 572 (Sterlla) missiles; 64,462 artillery shells of different types; 104,712 different mortar shells; 105,299 anti-tank grenades; 39,889 hand grenades; 8,680 ammunition launchers; 796,356 anti-aircraft ammunition; 26,717 different mines; and 50,160,335 light weapons ammunition.

May God bless the valiant men of the Presidential Guard, the Special I Army Corps, the II Army Corps, and the III Army Corps. Proceed forward.

[Dated] 6 August 1988

Murphy Arrives 6 Aug; To Meet With Shamir, Peres
TA0608202788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived in Israel tonight after talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. During the 2 days of his stay in Israel, Murphy will meet with the prime minister and the foreign minister and discuss King Husayn's decision to sever his ties with the residents of the territories.

Reportage on Plan for Palestinian Independence

Plan Found in Al-Husayni Office
TA0608202388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Palestinian leaders have formulated a plan which has been approved by the PLO leadership for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories. A draft of the plan was seized at the beginning of August from the offices of the Institute for Arab Studies in East Jerusalem after the detention of Faysal al-Husayni. It bore the headline: Declaration of Palestinian Independence.

The plan apparently proposes a Palestinian state within the partition boundaries and contains demands for territories within the Green Line. According to the plan, state institutions will be established on paper, and will be headed by Yasir 'Arafat. Faruq Qaddumi, Nayif Hawatimah, and other personalities will be ministers. The document mentions names of dozens of residents of the territories scheduled to serve as parliament members. All the residents of the territories will have to waive their Israeli identity cards, which will be replaced by documents to be issued by the PLO.

Called 'Insane, Dangerous'
TA0708044388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] The Palestinian independence plan for the establishment of a sovereign state within the 1947 boundaries has triggered a feeling of disgust and objection in the Prime Minister's Office and reservations in the territories and the PLO.

The Prime Minister's Office says these are insane, dangerous dreams that will never be realized. Sources in the territories and East Jerusalem have minimized the significance of the document, stating this is one of the ideas that has been toyed with recently but which has not yet undergone serious debate. The sources in the territories maintain that the timing of the leak by the Israeli defense establishment proves it was aimed at justifying Al-Husayni's detention. PLO sources have said the organization has not yet reached any decision on the issue and do not anticipate that Yasir 'Arafat would endorse these plans.

The independence declaration plan, as it is called, was found last week in Faysal al-Husayni's Institute for Arab Studies. It talks about the establishment of a government-in-exile that will comprise inhabitants of the territories and PLO personalities. The PNC would be the Palestinian parliament, PLO offices all over the world would serve as embassies and other legations, and the popular committees would continue to operate in the territories. Additionally, there will be operational bodies that would deal with, among other things, matters of health, agriculture, municipal affairs, social affairs, press, and cultural matters. The inhabitants of the territories would surrender their Israeli identity cards and instead receive Palestinian identification.

A special chapter is devoted to negotiations with Israel. The document states that the interim government will declare its readiness to set up what is called a functional delegation whose members will be inhabitants of the territories and other dignitaries from the outside who will conduct negotiations in a bid to reach a final solution with Israel.

In reaction to the plan, the Tehiya faction has called for the application of Israeli sovereignty to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Ge'ula Kohen, the head of the faction in the Knesset, has appealed to the director general of the Prime Minister's Office and the Knesset speaker, demanding that the cabinet issue a political statement on the new state of affairs created following the reports on the PLO plan. She told our correspondent that Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, has promised urgently to consider a statement by the prime minister in the Knesset. Our correspondent Gil'ad Sher notes the Knesset will convene for an extraordinary session on Wednesday to discuss Husayn's speech and developments in the area. This comes at the request of 20 Knesset members.

Termed 'Impractical'
TA0708065188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Aug 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by Yehuda Litani and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Prominent Palestinian nationalists in the territories have in recent weeks formulated draft proposals for a declaration of Palestinian independence in the territories, according to Palestinian sources. However both PLO and Israeli officials expressed scepticism about the viability of such a move.

Details of the proposals were leaked by Palestinians over the weekend in the wake of Jordan's announced intention to disengage from the West Bank.

The Prime Minister's Office dismissed the proposals as a "crazy and dangerous dream...Paper can withstand anything," an aide to the prime minister said, "but if someone deals with such ideas, he and his ideas are doomed to failure."

Foreign Ministry officials said, however, that a unilaterally declared independent Palestinian state would most likely earn the immediate recognition of 30-40 countries and create serious diplomatic difficulties for Israel.

Sources in the Foreign Ministry, nevertheless, dismissed the idea as "impractical." The sources said that the inhabitants of the territories who are serious about solving the Palestinian problem should recognize the existence of Israel and its legitimate security concerns and desist from terror and "propaganda which has no practical significance."

Officials said that the proposal to declare an independent Palestine is most likely just another of a spate of proposals which the PLO is considering in response to the intifada [uprising]. A much more serious proposal, which has been bandied about for years, is the establishement of a Palestinian government-in-exile, which is likely to be raised at the upcoming Palestinian National Council (PNC) meeting at the end of the month. [passage omitted]

Dr Sari Nusaybah of Bi'r Zayt University, a leading nationalist theoretician, said he believed an independence declaration should be coordinated with the Palestinian leadership abroad and should be part of a range of initiatives both inside and outside the territories.

A top Israeli government official has tried to contact leading Fatah supporters in the territories in the wake of King Husayn's speech. [passage omitted]

News of the planned declaration was first reported on Friday in the LOS ANGELES TIMES, in a dispatch by reporter Dan Fisher. According to Fisher, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising that initiated the declaration sees it as an historic opportunity to achieve political gains, in return for recognizing Israel's right to exist.

Israeli experts believe that such a move would be counterproductive to the intifada. If the local committees designated in the programme to "lead" the independent state were revealed, they would be arrested by the Israeli authorities. [passage omitted]

More Details on PLO Plan

TA0708073388 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Aug 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Excerpts] The security forces have uncovered a daring, detailed plan for the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state within the 1947 UN borders, which was soon to have been declared in Jerusalem within the framework of the intifada [uprising]. [passage omitted]

"The plan to declare independence" was discovered during searches in the Institute for Palestinian Research following the detention of Faysal al-Husayni. The article on the goals of the plan explains that a Palestinian declaration of independence would "provide a tremendous bargaining chip because the issue for discussion in the international arena and in Israel will shift from the demand that the PLO recognize Israel as a precondition for negotiations to a demand that the international community recognize the Palestinian state whose lands were conquered by the Jewish state."

The PLO will demand that all friendly countries grant political recognition to the new state and establish commercial and economic ties with it.

The document further states that the Unified National Command of the Uprising will handle the declaration. The intifada will continue and the popular committees meanwhile will become the bodies of the new state. An explanatory note in the document states that the declaration of independence would create great confusion in Israel. The announcement would be supported in Israel, too, and the country would be divided over it. The authors of the plan believe that "Israel would arrest everyone connected to the plan." [passage omitted]

After the IDF's withdrawal from the territories, the document stipulates, general elections will be held in the new state. [passage omitted]

A special chapter is devoted to negotiations with Israel. The document says that the interim government will declare its readiness to set up a "functional delegation" whose members will come both from the territories and abroad. Their job would be to conduct negotiations in an effort to reach a final solution with Israel. Among the issues that will be negotiated with Israel are the final border lines between the two states; the problem of the refugees' right to return or, alternatively, to receive compensation in accordance with UN resolutions; problems related to the settlements; ties between the two parts of the Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; and water issues.

Palestinian 'Government' Named

TA0708090788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 7 Aug 88 p 3

[Report by Gay Bekhor and Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpts] The PLO is considering a unilateral declaration on the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state and a Palestinian government that would be ready to recognize Israel. These are the basic points included in a secret draft proposal formulated by moderate PLO elements. The proposal was recently brought before the organization's leaders, who are meeting in Baghdad, for review. [passage omitted]

Yasir 'Arafat is slated to head the "Palestinian republic." According to the draft proposal, he will recognize the State of Israel and conduct direct negotiations with it without the need for an international conference. Issues such as the final

border line between Israel and the new Palestinian state will be on the agenda of these negotiations. This should be seen as an intimation of PLO readiness to forgo the demand for a return to the 1948 partition lines and make do with a smaller Palestinian state.

One proposal in the draft outlines the composition of the Palestinian government as follows:

Prime Minister—Yasir 'Arafat.

Deputy Prime Minister and Senior Minister—George Habash.

Deputy Prime Minister and Senior Minister—Nayif Hawatimah.

Foreign Minister—Faruq Qaddumi.

Senior Minister, possibly Interior Minister—Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad.

Each member of the PLO Executive Committee will also be given a specific portfolio.

This is in fact the first time that a Palestinian draft document has explicitly recognized Israel's right to exist. Nevertheless, a more simplistic version appeared 3 months ago in PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif's document. [passage omitted]

Israel will not permit the PLO to realize its plan to set up a Palestinian state in the territories. Sources associated with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said last night that reports emanating from the PLO on the establishment of a government-in-exile or the declaration of an independent Palestinian state in the territories should not cause consternation. They noted that this is not the first time, nor will it be the last, that the PLO has talked about such a government. The sources pointed out it is highly questionable whether a consensus could be reached among the various PLO factions.

The Foreign Ministry assessed last night that the trends implied in the documents captured in Faysal al-Husayni's possession reflect future plans which cannot really materialize in view of the factionalism and internal strife among the PLO splinter groups. At the same time, political circles in Jerusalem expressed the fear that if an agreement is reached among PLO leaders on a unilateral declaration of Palestinian independence and the establishment of a government-in-exile, such a move could win international support and recognition from West European countries, the Communist bloc, and the Third World.

Rabin Briefs Cabinet on Plan

TA0708104088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] At today's cabinet session, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin expressed amazement and dismay at the leak of the Faysal al-Husayni document to the press. The security forces found the document last week during a search of the Institute for Palestinian Research which Faysal al-Husayni heads.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that after the cabinet meeting, the Alignment ministers met for a discussion of the matter.

The document, coupled with King Husayn's latest moves to cut off ties with the territories, were discussed by the cabinet today and transferred to the Inner Cabinet for further discussion. At the cabinet session, Likud ministers expressed a certain measure of disregard for the plan, while Alignment ministers claimed it is aimed at filling the void created by Husayn's severance of ties with the territories. This follows Israel's rejection of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' peace plan. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 7 August adds that "Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the cabinet that the PLO's plan to declare an independent state will not lead to the end of the Jordanian-Palestinian option, in spite of appearances."]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 7 August adds: "Defense Minister Rabin told the cabinet members he takes a positive view of Husayn's latest move because he is presenting the Palestinians with a serious dilemma and the need to decide. Ministers Sharon and Shapira again demanded that Israeli law be applied to parts of Judaea and Samaria."]

'Independence' Plan Published

TA0708115288 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Aug 88 p 3

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Text] Below is the full version (except for various omissions) of the "independence document" written by PLO leaders in the territories, detailing their plan for the establishment of a Palestinian state within the partition boundaries:

The Plan

1. The announcement in Jerusalem of the independence document will herald the establishment of the sovereign Palestinian state within the partition boundaries, as determined in 1947 by the Security Council in Resolution 181. Its capital will be Jerusalem and its interim government will consist of two parts: those who are abroad and those who reside on Palestinian soil.

2. The state will be headed by 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; Faruq Qaddumi, who heads the PLO's Political Department, will serve as foreign minister in the new government. PLO Executive Committee members will be considered members of the new government. It will also include Messrs George Habash, secretary general of the PFLP, and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP.

3. In parallel, the National Council will be proclaimed the new state's parliament. It will include personalities from the conquered land. Their names will be declared in the independence charter.

4. PLO representations overseas will be regarded as the new Palestinian state's legations.

5. An interim administrative body will be set up in the conquered land. It will deal with various administrative matters, such as health, culture, social and welfare, legal, police, agriculture, industry, commerce, construction, electricity, water, municipalities, press, and science affairs. (This network will be based on the popular committees.)

The Objective

To move from the phase of clashes with stones on the battlefront to the stage of political initiative even as a diplomatic campaign is being waged. This will provide the blessed intifada [uprising] with refreshed momentum to reach an international conference.

This technique will affect diplomatic activity far more than any other political initiative that could be conceived by the Palestinian side. It will give the Palestinians a tremendous bargaining chip because the issue for debate both in the international arena and in Israel will change from a demand that the PLO recognize Israel as a precondition for negotiations to a demand by the international community that it recognize the state established by the various branches of the Palestinian people, whose lands were conquered by the Hebrew state.

The above does not mean an end to the blessed process of revolt, but an escalation to the extent possible so that it reaches the level of the proposed national state bodies.

Projected Scenario

A. Assigning the popular committees and making sure they are instructed and directed to serve as a national substitute for the various conquering bodies. The popular committees deployed throughout will be granted official titles as branches of the new state.

B. Regarding the Israeli position: It will be unable to fight against, foil, or sabotage the newborn entity, because the newborn entity—"the state struggling to save itself from conquest"—will be accorded respect and appreciation by all forces worldwide, including those that support Israel. On the domestic scene, Israel will be torn. This is because there is growing demand for recognition of the newborn entity, particularly as it is a child born—as everyone acknowledges—after heroic labor pains. The nature of the new state will confirm that it is not aggressive and that the Palestinian people do not aspire for the annihilation of the State of Israel. Rather, they wish to live peacefully as its neighbor.

C. This goal will be dealt with by a declaration by "The Unified National Command of the Uprising" from Jerusalem, the capital of Palestine. Our people will thus hold the reins of the initiative even as they are setting up their state on their national land, instead of persistently demanding of other parties—especially the international conference and the United States—that such a state be established. D. The interim government will proclaim, on behalf of the PLO, its readiness to appoint a functional delegation whose members will be people "from within" and "from the outside." Its mission will be to launch negotiations toward reaching a final solution with Israel.

The negotiations will center on:

—The final borders between the Palestinian state and Israel;

—The political and practical link and ties between Gaza and the West Bank;

—The future of Jewish settlements in the territories;

—The nature of relations between the two countries, as for example regarding the issue of the division of water resources;

—The problem of the refugees' right of return or their right to compensation in accordance with UN resolutions.

E. The declaration of independence must be preceded by consultations with the Arab countries and with the Soviet Union. Although these countries will not enjoy the right to veto the declaration, they should nevertheless be consulted.

F. The Palestinian state will be a republic. It will have a president who will be elected by a parliament, in addition to a ministerial council that will be made up of the elected party or parties. (The document promises freedom of religion, civil rights, election rights, etc.)

G. All the residents of the conquered land will be required to carry out the orders and instructions issued by the new state, its institutions, and operational bodies, as expressed through the national committees which are subordinate to the Unified National Command.

The residents will similarly be required to surrender their Israeli identity cards and exchange them for Palestinian cards which will be issued by the interim government. These will be distributed by the popular committees. Foreign reporters, visitors, and tourists will be requested to obtain laissez-passer papers and entrance licenses from the interim government's institutions.

H. Following recognition of the state and the withdrawal of the Israeli Army, arrangements will be made for free, direct elections toward the establishment of a new government and for the post of president of the state." [no opening quote marks as published]

Note: We have deleted from the original document a list of 152 personalities to be included in the interim Palestinian parliament, as well as individual clauses whose significance is relatively marginal.

More on Possible Husayn Moves in West Bank, Jordan
TA0708070688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Aug 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by Elaine Ruth Fletcher, Menahem Shalev, and agencies]

[Excerpts] Jordan's King Husayn yesterday abolished the Ministry of Occupied Territories, reshuffled his cabinet and prepared to impose greater controls on traffic across the Jordan bridges, as officials in Jerusalem expected the king to take further steps to sever Jordan from the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Israeli officials estimate that Husayn is likely to disband the Jordanian Senate in the next few days. Reports from Amman indicate that he will also toughen entry procedures at the Jordan River bridges, although the bridges will not be closed.

The most crucial and telling step, the officials said, remains the cancellation of Jordanian passports for West Bank Palestinians, a step which would have far-reaching political impact and which the officials do not believe Husayn will make. [passage omitted]

The cabinet is expected today to discuss Husayn's latest move and formulate Israel's response to his dimissal of employees and cutting off of salaries and pensions.

Israel has no intention of filling the void that has been created. At the same time, officials made clear last night that although international organizations might step in when the political dust settles, no organization has signaled its willingness to fill the financial vacuum. Israel will not encourage such organizations to do so, it was said.

At the same time, an official said, Israel will have to come to terms with the possible breakdown of vital services in the West Bank and find ways of fulfilling its responsibility to maintain law and order in the territories.

A senior Israeli official said Israel was considering giving financial aid to Palestinians through its military administration and the UN Relief and Works Agency. Israel Radio said U.S. and Scandinavian charity funds may also be involved in the effort.

The Prime Minister's Office reacted with disdain to Husayn's disbanding of the Ministry of Occupied Territories.

"The ministry was fictitious and unimportant in the first place," a Shamir aide said, "and there is nothing in Husayn's move which should cause Israel to change its policies."

Husayn also disbanded the Higher Committee for Occupied Territories' Affairs, which supervised the traffic of people and goods across the bridges.

"They are going to regulate the traffic, but we don't know how yet," said one West Bank Palestinian close to Amman. Palestinian officials in Amman also said new travel restrictions were likely to follow.

Al-Husayni Queried in Jail on Husayn Move, Peace
TA0708083788 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Aug 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Dani Rubinstein]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, held in administrative detention in the Kefar Yona facility, told MAPAM Knesset Member [MK] Gad Yatziv on Friday that those in Israel who believe King Husayn's moves to separate himself from the West Bank would bring about disintegration in the territories are mistaken.

Al-Husayni, considered the foremost PLO (Fatah) spokesman in the West Bank and Gaza, further stated that if the Government of Israel adopts the Yariv-Shemtov formula—which advocates Israeli negotiations with any Arab body that would recognize it and renounce terrorism—it would elicit a prompt positive public reaction by the PLO leadership.

MK Yatziv, who visited Al-Husayni in jail, heard him report that all the funds transferred by Jordan to the territories have come from the Arab oil countries, with Jordan merely serving as middleman. Al-Husayni therefore believes that the Arab countries would devise an alternative means of transferring the money within weeks, perhaps through international bodies.

Al-Husayni added that King Husayn's new policy is not sheer tactics but stems from an inevitable process of separation from the territories, which began 14 years ago at the Rabat Arab summit where a resolution was passed stating the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. He believes it is unavoidable that the PLO would fill the administrative gap created in the territories. In other words, the entire administrative system in

the territories, which had thus far received funding and instructions from Jordan, will from now on receive financial support from other sources while the instructions will come from the PLO.

Regarding Israeli policy, Al-Husayni believes declarations along the lines of the Yariv-Shemtov formula or 'Ezer Weizman's pronouncements on the Palestinians coming from the mouth of an Israeli premier will lead to an unambiguously positive reaction from the PLO. Al-Husayni replied to various Israeli elements who have been asking: "Where is the Palestinian 'Peace Now' movement?" by saying there is an obvious parallel trend in the PLO, as expressed in Bassam Abu Sharif's famous document.

Faysal al-Husayni said he has no complaints about his prison conditions, although when inmates in adjoining cells are "calmed" with tear gas, the gas seeps into his cell (he occupies a solitary) and he suffers because he has asthma.

Al-Husayni wished to draw attention to the fact that all three of his arrests came after meetings with Israelis. The first time he was apprehended was after a meeting with Natan Shcharanskiy, the second immediately after his contacts with Moshe 'Amirav, and now, after his address at a Peace Now meeting.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

West Bank Youth Dies of Wounds

TA0608114588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] The Arab youth shot yesterday by IDF soldiers as he and another friend were about to hurl a firebomb died of his wounds last night. As will be recalled, an IDF patrol near the Trans-Samaria highway spotted two Arab youths holding and aiming several Molotov cocktails. The soldiers fired at them. The two were later found to be in the possession of a makeshift gun as well. This report was filed by our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat.

Soldier, 2 Arabs Wounded

TA0608185288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] In today's incidents in the territories, an IDF soldier was slightly wounded by stones and two residents were shot and wounded. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a curfew was imposed on Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. In Al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem, masked youths hurled stones at vehicles and at an IDF patrol. A soldier was wounded in this incident. The patrol returned fire, wounding a local youth. Arab sources said another person sustained injury in this incident.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1800 on 6 August adds: "Our police correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports a truck was stoned tonight near Shu'fat, north of Jerusalem. Its front windshield was shattered. No one was hurt."]

King Husayn Holds News Conference on West Bank
JN0808051188 Amman Television Service in English 1907 GMT 7 Aug

[News conference held by King Husayn "at the Royal Hashemite Court" on 7 August—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] Welcome, ladies and gentlemen. Good afternoon. It is a very great pleasure for me to welcome you and see among you many old friends in this area in this part of the world. I hope I can in the few minutes that we have together answer, as I've always done in the past, all your questions to the best of my ability in absolute candor, so I leave it to you. Go ahead, Sir.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, your decision of the last week has been a very dramatic one for Palestinians and for everybody interested in Middle East affairs. I am most interested in asking you: What would you like to see happen next.

[Husayn] Well, I believe in a way we probably have contributed to the root cause of stability in the entire area and are once again the focus of attention in the world as a whole. I believe that we have seen in the recent past and continue to see promising signs of a consensus in the world to remove causes of tension and resolve problems that present a threat to world peace and stability. I would certainly hope to deal with the problem quickly for the establishment of comprehensive, just, and durable peace. I've always felt that such peace cannot be brought about without addressing the Palestinian problem and resolving it. The Palestinian people must be a prime party in the efforts leading to a solution of the problem that has been with us in this part of world and with the world as whole for far too long. So, the hopes are that efforts will be seen in the terms ahead that would address the problem adequately and hopefully at the earliest possible opportunity.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH. I conducted recently a quick survey to review major economic and political responses to the new Jordanian constitutional arrangements. The survey showed three main points: First, the Jordanian dinar proved to be stable; second, the Amman stock market did not collapse as it was expected or as it was mentioned in some newspapers; third, the Arab and international dealing with Jordan didn't show any change. Your Majesty, could we say that these results do reflect the innate strength in the Jordanian establishment or is it because the Jordanian media proved efficient enough to absorb whatever shock was expected?

[Husayn] Well, I am happy that your survey has brought out these rather comforting results. And I can assure you that our confidence is absolute in the awareness of our people and the credibility that Jordan has gained over the years within the Arab world and within the world as a whole. On the other hand, you referred to a shock, but certainly this wasn't our intention in any formal way. I believe that the signs were there on the long road, long struggle, with which we have been involved and continued to be involved in, to the best of our ability, until Palestinians regain their legitimate rights on Palestinian soil. The signs were there in 1974, with the Rabat summit conference designating the Palestinian Liberation Organization as sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. They were there at the Fes summit, when the summit decided to add as a goal the creation of an independent Palestinian state. And certainly they were affirmed in the recent summits both in Amman and later on in Algeria concerning al-intifadah [the uprising]. So, it was a decision which was hopefully a contribution towards achieving Palestinian goals and aims and recognizing the Palestinian will and desire to bring forth the Palestinian dimension and identity and to safeguard it and we certainly were responding to the consensus in the entire Arab world and at the highest levels and the Palestinian demands as presented by the PLO throughout that period.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, your announcement to break links with the West Bank—does it in any way mean nullifying the agreement between Your Majesty's grandfather, the 1950 agreement with the Palestinians, unity agreement?

[Husayn] The unity which came about in 1950 as a result of the request of the Palestinian leaders of the time and which we held sacred throughout the years obviously has been affected in one dimension when the representatives of the people of Palestine once again opted for the creation of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil. It was their wish in 1950 to forget the unity with Jordan. It was obviously their wish over the last several years to work to create their own independent Palestinian state. In other words it was their desire that was met recently. But on the other hand I would like to emphasize very strongly and categorically that as far as Jordan is concerned, all the people of Jordan, regardless of their origins, enjoy and will continue to enjoy the same privileges of citizenship and their unity is sacred. And hopefully they will also exercise their rights on the one hand and the responsibilities to preserve the unity of this country and to hopefully make it an example to others in one area, and to prepare it to be an element which would be hopefully ready and prepared to join with others in time when we form and forge the greater Arab unity we have always sought. That does not infer in any way that we are abandoning our responsibilities in terms of a sacred duty that, as far as my family is concerned, was outlined by the decision of my great grandfather to give up all, rather than bargain over Palestinian rights; my grandfather and his struggle and the struggle with which I have been honored to be involved over the years in terms of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and in terms of its people. We are one regardless of our origins in our determination to support the cause of the Palestinian people and their rights on their occupied soil until a solution to the problem is found that can mean peace, justice, and stability in the entire area.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, does that mean that the unification document is still valid? And secondly, when I look at Article One of the Constitution of the Hashemite Kingdom that says that no part of the territory can be ceded by anybody—I mean your decision to cut the legal and administrative links with the West Bank—does that mean it is a secession from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan?

[Husayn] I believe, sir, that the answer to this is very simple. When our Palestinian brethren chose to establish their own independence, the independence is obviously from Jordan. And if there is any secession, then it is in their wish to safeguard their identity and establish their legitimate rights on their soil, which we have responded to positively and which we have recognized, nothing less and nothing more.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, can you just tell us how would you visualize the PLO accomplishing in effect what many Arab countries for a number of years have not been able to accomplish? Do you know that your decision will somehow change the composition of the balance of power within the PLO to permit the PLO to make a peace offering of some kind, or are you just wishing them good luck and hoping the best for them?

[Husayn] No, sir, what I wish in terms of our relations with them in the future—and by that I mean Palestinian-Jordanian relations—after a long period of uncertainty, lack of clarity, when they eventually are forged again, will be forged, hopefully, on the most solid of foundations. As far as the PLO is concerned, I was very clear in Algeria when I said time and again that we had no quarrel with the Palestinian people or their sole legitimate representative. Whatever they wished, we would certainly welcome and support. And we responded to their wishes. Once again let me be very clear. If we are talking of a comprehensive peace in this area, we still believe that this could come about through an international conference with the participation of the PLO, the Palestinians, in resolving the Palestinian dimension of the problem. But at the same time I would like to be absolutely clear that for a comprehensive settlement to be reached, Jordan has a role which it is prepared to play to the fullest possible extent under the auspices of such a conference when it is held. We will continue to push for that to the best of our ability. Jordan, as you know, has the longest borders and cease-fire lines with Israel, and they are in fact longer than the borders of Gaza and the West Bank with Israel. Beyond that, we have a duty that we will not forsake to give Palestinians all the possible support that we can for them to achieve their rights on their soil. The international conference, of course, would be the one that we have identified with time and again under the auspices of the five permanent members of the Security Council and with the participation of all parties to the conflict. Obviously that includes Jordan and, in particular, the Palestinians.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, there has been much discussion about the future for those who live in the West Bank and also the status of the bridges connecting the areas. Could you tell us the status of the situation and also your thinking if you have not yet made a decision on them?

[Husayn] As far as those two issues go, I would like to be very, very clear. We believe the bridges to be a lifeline as far as our brethren in the occupied territories are concerned and as far as we are concerned we have no intention of closing these bridges, nor has it crossed our minds to think of doing that. As far as passports are concerned, once again passports will remain until such time as the Palestinian state hopefully is created and then obviously Palestinians can have their own passports representing them as citizens of that state.

[Reporter] Could you, Your Majesty, give us some idea why you took this decision which has startled the world? I know that you have your reasons for it in your domestic context, but it has startled the world. Why have you taken this decision now and does it to an extent reflect disillusion with the American and Israeli responses to your own efforts to move toward a settlement?

[Husayn] Well, if you want to look at it from that perspective, yes. I believe the disillusionment is not only mine but that of many in this part of the world and in the world as a whole. It's odd that although there never existed a Jordanian option, we have heard this cliche time and again. Jordan has always been ready to make its contribution to the establishment of a just and durable peace. Jordan went further to clarify its position in the six points and to Secretary of State George Shultz. We were very clear. We would not represent the Palestinians or the PLO or talk on their behalf. We were ready under certain circumstances of the Palestinians desiring us to do so, to go in a joint Jordanian and Palestinian delegation, but that was contingent on the Palestinian request. Yet, on the other hand, what has the Israeli option been? What has the American decision been over the years? Israel has been adamant in its policies, and particularly in regard to the present government. Repression has grown and certainly we have seen no positive signs to indicate that at the very high levels, responsible elements are able to think beyond today to tomorrow, to the interest of generations to come on both sides. As for the United States, we believe it also has not lived up to the hopes of many in terms of its position in this world as a superpower and in terms of the influence it could have exerted to have resolved this problem before this time or for that matter in the attention it is focusing on the problem more than the recent past and up to this moment in time.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, first of all about the superpowers, and then if I could ask you something else. What would you now have to see the superpowers do? Do you want more active involvement from the new American administration and perhaps further involvement from the Soviets?

[Husayn] I would certainly welcome that. I have always hoped that we could see greater coordination of efforts between the two superpowers. And we have always called for the involvement of the five in focusing their attention on the problem and getting us off the position in which we are all in—the position of a stalemate.

[Reporter] Thanks, Your Majesty, for answering that. What you have done seems to look well for the likes of Mr Shamir and the rightwing in Israel who may benefit from what you have done to the Palestinians and the PLO on the other side. Is there realistically any hope for peace when the way is now open for two such irreconcilable enemies?

[Husayn] I do not know that I can really adequately answer this question except to say that as far the Palestinian people are concerned, their suffering has continued particularly under occupation, almost 21 years. This has not in any way diminished their sense of belonging to their Palestinian family or attachment to their Palestinian soil as we have seen in the recent past. And I believe that the people of Palestine seek justice and peace, seek to be treated in the manner they deserve and for the injustices they have suffered to be redressed. As for the government in Israel, I believe that its position has been most unhelpful. For it has succeeded in losing opportunity after opportunity through vagueness at best and the inability to realize that no solution can come from continued occupation of the lands of others and denying them their rights. Israel yet has not made any contribution to the cause of just peace in this part of the world. Hopefully, it will be persuaded to do so in the times ahead.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, I wonder if I can ask you what impact the uprising in the occupied territories had upon your decision to sever the links with the West Bank, whether it was a major factor in your thinking? And secondly, how your decision will in turn affect the uprising?

[Husayn] Well Sir, when there was any area that caused misinterpretations of our position we would try to address it. That represented duality in a way. And I hope that we have given the uprising and the Palestinian people support through our actions, in terms of their yearning to see a world that recognises that they are a people with an identity and with a cause. As for the rest, well, we are the closest to them in terms of our sentiments and feelings and commitment to help them to the best of our ability until a solution is found and their quest is fulfilled

[Reporter] You seem to be saying you are not completely closing off the option of again getting involved, or are we misunderstanding this. Suppose the PLO for a number of reasons fails to find a party in Israel that wishes to resolve this or fails to form a government-in-exile or fails to take whatever steps are necessary to bring this to a conclusion, and sentiment changes—as it has changed in a way that led you to make this decision—to demand involvement of Jordan. Would Jordan be prepared again to talk, in the name of, or along with the Palestinians, or is that option closed forever?

[Husayn] That option as far as I am concerned at the moment does not exist, and I would like to make it very clear that our policies as they have evolved recently have been, in essence, a response to Palestinian demands and Arab demands and to the realities of the situation and to our conviction that the Palestinians must be a prime party to any solution to the problem. On the other hand, I made it very clear that we are a confrontation state. We have our problems that we face and we continue to face, alongside our support for the Palestinians which will not waver. So, if we are talking of a comprehensive peace settlement, possibly through an international conference, we have a place and we have a position and we have a case and a cause, and if it is a question of support for the Palestinians to regain their rights, nothing has changed there. But we are not playing at tactics and our decision is a decision that we have taken and we will adhere to it. I cannot forecast what the future will be, but we'll deal with it if it brings anything else.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, on the 7th of last April your government handed to Mr Shultz a number of questions. One of those questions asked for an answer, I am sorry, asked for an answer to how American government understands the term of the legible [as heard] rights for the Palestinians, and how Washington understands the way of actualizing peace rights? The second question was how does America, or the American Administration understand the term the Palestinian people? Does it apply to the Palestinians in exile, or does it only apply to the Palestinians in the occupied land? I do not know, I mean the answer, if it has been received, was it taken into consideration in the new arrangements that were taken?

[Husayn] I don't think that I have had the answer yet.

[Reporter] I should like to speak [words indistinct] of the new realities which have been created by your decision to a breakage with the West Bank. I believe that Mr Murphy is coming to Amman tomorrow. Do you anticipate that the focus of the discussion has shifted now from the Shultz initiative and there are new realities which [word indistinct] you have to take into consideration when discussing peace proposals?

[Husayn] I have no notion what will be the topics of our discussions when Mr Murphy arrives in Amman tomorrow. I'll probably see him after tomorrow, and I am sure he will hold meetings with officials here. I am sure the topics of mutual interest and concern will be discussed, but nothing that Mr Murphy will bring will alter in any form or way the position that we have adopted. And on the other hand, we would be interested to see if he has any reactions or thoughts or he can possibly give us any impressions of what the U.S. thinking is in terms of the

present and the future. I think that he is going to probably brief us on the discussions that he has had with Mr Polyakov recently. This is at least what was probably the reason for his visit.

[Reporter] Your Majesty stated that a peace conference is the only way for achieving durable peace in this region. Don't you think with the Israeli position as it is that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation would have other chances for contributing to convening this conference?

[Husayn] Whatever I might have thought along these lines in the past obviously didn't lead anywhere. So, that is behind us now. And we'll have to wait and see what the future brings.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, a delegation from the PLO is asking to come to Jordan. Judging from the information we heard, is there anything more to say to the PLO? And do you think that there will be, in the future, maybe another kind of cooperation or dialogue with the PLO?

[Husayn] We have nothing to say to the PLO. We'll hear what they will have to say or what they to wish to say to us. And I am sure we will keep in touch in the future. The doors are always open and they are always welcome to discuss anything that is on their mind as the sole, legitimate representative of the people of Palestine.

[Reporter] You suggested [words indistinct] that the PLO should fill the vacuum in the West Bank that Jordan will leave. But how realistic do you think that is, given the fact that Israel, who is the de facto power in that area, does not recognize PLO claims there? And how do you respond to the sentiments of those Palestinians in the West Bank who may feel that your measures are, in a sense, abandoning them?

[Husayn] I think, sir, that there are two parts to my answer, one of which is to repeat what I have heard from the PLO time and again. And I have no cause but to accept their word that they are in the closest possible touch with the Palestinians in the occupied territories and have been in the recent past and throughout the intifada. So if this is the case, and I believe it to be so, they were able to continue to be in touch with their constituency. And I am sure that they will be able to continue to do so in the times ahead. As regards the second part of your question, I believe that I might address a problem myself by suggesting that there had been certain statistics circulated around the world for whatever reasons. And I take exception to them somehow, because the facts show us that they are incorrect. A suggestion over a long period of time, for example, has been that the population in Jordan is comprised of 60 percent Palestinian and 40 percent Jordanian. I believe that this repeated suggestion, which comes up so often when the problems of this area are discussed, really stems from an idea that has been floated by certain quarters in Israel—and in some cases clearly so—that the Palestinians do not have a problem on Palestinian soil, but that they could form their state elsewhere. And elsewhere obviously has meant, in their minds, Jordan.

Well, to correct the figures I would say that Jordanians of Palestinian origin on the East Bank are less than 40 per cent of our population. In the same way recently we have heard that when Jordan responded to the PLO's demands and requests that there should not be any duality in assuming responsibilities in the occupied territories since they are the sole, legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, and when we took actions regarding our own civil service there, once again the figures were exaggerated. Jordanian civil servants involved by these measures are 3,200. We did help others, but they were not Jordanian civil servants. That is again another area that I wish to clear up. The last thing in our minds was to create further hardships or difficulties of people. And we appreciate the services of our civil servants there throughout the years. And as a result, in all cases—be they those regarding civil servants or others that we helped who were not a part of the system, but possibly were involved with the development plan or in other areas—the same laws that apply here have applied there. And in all these actions we've only responded to what we believe was in the interest of the Palestinian people and was meeting their demands—nothing less, nothing more.

[Reporter] We understand that you had many contacts with the leaders of neighboring Arab states to discuss your decision, including President al-Asad of Syria, whose relations with the PLO are not particularly good. Can you tell us to what degree he has been supportive of the moves?

[Husayn] I am not going to single out one Arab leader. I met with all of them at Algeria, at the Arab summit. And it is in response to their consensus that we acted. And we are certainly a part of it when it appeared to be so. On the other hand, yes I do have contacts with many of my colleagues in the Arab world. And my feeling is that the responses had been supportive in general, and understanding, based on the history of the relationship and their awareness of the Palestinian demands. On the other hand, I believe that, hopefully Jordan, which has enjoyed credibility in this world and particularly in the Arab world, will be able in the time ahead to continue to work in the best interest of the Arabs on all levels, and certainly the interests of generations to come. And we have been very active within the Arab arena. We will continue to be so. Probably more so than ever in the times ahead.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, are you hopeful of having soon a settlement between Iraq and Iran, especially in the [reporter changes thought] what is your assessment? Are we reaching peace between Iran and Iraq, especially after the last position of President Saddam Husayn?

[Husayn] I am very hopeful and very very optimistic. And, on the other hand, I am very pleased with all these developments and welcome them.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Your Majesty, there was a report that some Palestinians in the West Bank called on the PLO to request from Jordan that they remain under Jordanian law (?until) the establishment of the Palestinian state. Do you think that this kind of request can be satisfied?

[Husayn] I believe that our position has been adopted and taken in response to a Palestinian genuine desire and request at all levels. And I do not think there will be any alternation to this position.

[Reporter] Are the new arrangements going to affect the activities of the PLO in Jordan? Would it diminish the activities of the PLO?

[Husayn] I do not know what activities you are referring to, sir

[Reporter] Offices.

[Husayn] Offices? I believe they will be accorded a status of a mission here, an embassy, so to speak, and treated as such.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, do you feel your decision changed political reality in the Middle East? Do you anticipate any changes in bilateral relations between the United States and Jordan?

[Husayn] I cannot tell at this point in time whether there will or will not be. I do not know what the United States position is. I hope to try to encourage it to be more active, more involved in the cause of establishing a just, durable peace in this area. And I hope that this will evolve and happen.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] from the Sunday Times. The PLO is talking about setting up a government-in-exile. I wonder if I can ask your majesty, if it did so, what you would [reporter changes thought] what effect that would have on the peace process? Would it remove some obstacles for example? And would you recognize the Palestinian government-in-exile?

[Husayn] Without any hesitation, immediately.

[Reporter] The first part of my question: What effect do you see, should it declare government-in-exile, what effect do you see it would have on the peace process? Would it remove...

[Husayn, interrupting] I believe that whatever the Palestinians could do to ensure that they are the focal point responding to their legitimate demands and requests representing them, echoing their feelings, is welcome. And I hope that this will evolve and develop and emerge very very rapidly, more so than at any time in the past. Go ahead sir.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, you have said that the measures apply only to the West Bank and Gaza, that citizens here, regardless of their origin, are unaffected. But in speeches over the last 3 months—and I came here today—you have been talking about the neutrality of rights and obligations. Now, if one intention behind your measures is to promote and enhance the status of the PLO as sole legitimate of the Palestinian people, if the Palestinians were now to declare a government-in-exile, as you are probably aware, there are trans-Jordanians who would want to see the government examine the sentiments and loyalties of all people on the East Bank. People should be asked to determine whether their primary loyalty is to you, to the government-in-exile, or to the PLO. Can you say that this is something that will happen in the near future, that people of Palestinian origin here will have to decide where they owe allegiance?

[Husayn] All Jordanians, regardless of their origin, or origins in this case, will enjoy the same rights. Hopefully, the time will come, in the near future, when we are able to, as a whole, manifest what we mean through the democratic process where those who accept to be citizens of Jordan can enjoy their rights of running for elections and being elected. We are most anxious to see national unity not only enhanced, but for it to be an example to others in the entire Arab world. As far as Palestine is concerned, as a cause and as a case, what applied in 1950 applies today and will continue to apply. In other words, when we forged the unity in 1950, just a little bit before my time, there was no question that this unity affected the rights of people of Palestinian origin regarding a final solution of the Palestinian problem. On the other hand, as far as Palestine—the cause and the case and the support for the Palestinian people in terms of their rights—is concerned, I do not believe it is my right or the right of any to question the commitment of any member of the family, which is that of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to this cause and this case on an equal basis. So there is no contradiction.

[Reporter] Can you tell us if all the measures you have announced so far are the end of the measures you plan to take, or are there in the next few days, weeks, and months, more and more measures that will be coming through?

[Husayn] No basically, I believe we have covered all the areas that required attention so far.

[Reporter] Your Majesty [words indistinct] do you sense any resentment on their part or any disenfranchisement or anger toward your government?

[Husayn] I don't see why there should be any anger. We have stood by them and we will continue to stand by them to the best of our ability. We hope that we have met in part some of their aspirations. Obviously, many years have passed since we were together before the occupation. Many of them do not know us, or know us well. Many of them for whatever reasons looked at us, looked at this country from different perspectives. There were doubts and suspicions. Jordan was in the unfortunate position of being there, and it has been taken for granted by so many in this world as a whole. With respect to the Palestinians in the occupied territories, their suffering is alive in our hearts and souls, as is their cause. We will continue to do our best to help in any way we can. And we hope that we have at least finally removed any causes or reasons for doubts or suspicions. I have said it time and again, we never had any ambitions or desires to expand at their expense, to control them in any way, or to challenge them regarding the Palestinian identity. I hope that all of the doubts of the past and the questions in the minds of many are behind us now. I hope that that is the way they perceive us.

[Reporter] Is the effect of your speech on July 31st, the measures that had been taken since, and what you are saying today, is the effect of that that Jordan formally renounces irrevocably sovereignty over the West Bank?

[Husayn, laughing] Did I say that? Jordan has met the repeated requests of the Arab summits and of the Palestinian people. But at the same time, if this is the interpretation now, I would like to suggest very strongly that Jordan has not and will not move away from the course it has chosen for itself, as has my family, to support Palestinians until they regain their rights on their national soil. Thank you Sir.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, I need your patience for just one more question I would like to put to you. Does it worry you at all that what you have done may help the right wing in Israel and damage the chances of the Labor Party of Mr Peres in the elections in the Autumn?

[Husayn] Obviously, this is a question that I can answer in the following way: Why worry me necessarily? The problem is there; that is before the world. It certainly ought to be before the Israelis themselves. Hopefully, the futility of their policies hitherto might be obvious to them. On the other hand, take it another way. The foundations for a just and durable peace, Security Council Resolution 242, 338, the resolution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects ought to return to these two resolutions. None of them has referred to Jordanian occupied territories. The Resolution 242 calls for withdrawal from the occupied territories. On the other hand, I hope somehow that if all of us have gone or are undergoing soul-searching—a process that events have forced upon us time and again, and the same may happen on the Israeli scene as well—that there may come with it the realisation that not by denying the people their rights by occupation and repression, can there be peace for future generations on all sides to the conflict.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, what would be the effect on the domestic level here in Jordan of your decision to sever links with the West Bank? Will we have elections here soon?

[Husayn] I referred to that earlier on. I hope that an appropriate time not too long from now that we will have an election.

[Reporter] Excuse me, did I understand correctly that you did not say explicitly that Jordan's sovereignty over the West Bank is gone. I mean is Jordan still in charge of the West Bank legally? Is your decision basically a political one or does it have [question incomplete]?

[Husayn, interrupting] Jordan does not have any sovereignty over the West Bank, Sir. The West Bank belongs to Palestinians, the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. And the Palestinian people have decided that they wish for their identity to be preserved and their attachement to their land and to their territories be recognised and this what we have done. The territories are occupied territories.

[Reporter] We have been informed that West Bankers will keep their Jordanian passports. This means that Jordan will inevitably be involved with those people, because they are Jordanian citizens?

[Husayn] I keep saying that we will not do anything that would add to the hardships of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Passports will remain as long as they need them temporarily hopefully until they are able to form their state and realize their dream which we support fully, and then they will have their Palestinian passports as such hopefully.

[Reporter] Nothing has been said about Gaza from the legal standpoint. Does it fall under Egyptian rule or what?

[Husayn] What applies to the West Bank applies to Gaza. It is Palestinian territory. And there are the Palestinian people. This territory belongs to them. And, hopefully this will be recognised by the world as a whole as it has been by us.

[Reporter] If I may ask about a hypothetical situation. Supposing that the international conference is held and the PLO does not accept 242 as a basis for participating in the preace talks, would Jordan or the rest of the Arab countries in that case be willing to negotiate an Arab-Israeli settlement without the Palestinians?

[Husayn] I don't believe that is possible at all. I don't believe that a solution can be worked out without the participation of the Palestinians and the resolution of the Palestinian problem. Go ahead, Sir.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, do you believe that the time is ripe now more than any time in the last few years for the PLO to come with truly new and creative approach to the peace process?

[Husayn] That is up to the PLO to determine and up to the PLO's constituency to work out with the PLO. And I hope that the pressure of the events, particularly in the occupied territories and the responsibilities that we have chosen to give them will contribute to their ability to come up with the right answsers to serve the Palestinian cause and to safeguard Palestinian rights.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] IL GIORNALE, Milan. Your Majesty, you made it clear you don't want to tell the Palestinians what to do now. You said several times...

[Husayn, interrupting] About what?

[Reporter] You don't want to tell the Palestinians what they have to do now. You made it clear several times. Are you prepared at least to tell them that they have to be reasonably fast and not let the momentum go?

[Husayn] I've been very, very concerned, sir, as part of our thinking and our process even recently to ensure that we pushed and helped things along these lines, and I certainly hope that this will be the case, but it's not for me to decide what the Palestinians should or should not do from now, nor is it my right to impose on them what they should choose by themselves. I hope that they will be in a better position now to act in the best interest of the Palestinian question.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, could you clarify, please, your response to the question on the PLO facilities there will be here now or a PLO mission, and also in terms of your expressed desire not to increase the hardships for the people in the West Bank. Does that imply that if were asked to act as a funnel, for example, for funds to go to the West Bank that you might be amenable to that?

[Husayn] As far as the question is concerned, I think I already have answered it. Obviously we are expecting a PLO delegation to visit Jordan some time soon. On the other hand, the PLO mission here will have the status of a diplomatic mission and I believe that's all. [words indistinct] As far as help is concerned, our actions have, since the intifafdah [uprising], been to help as best as we could. As a duty, we have helped the families of the martyrs of the intifadah and we will continue to do so and the families of those under detention by Israeli authorities who are in need of help. We've decided and acted over the recent period as well to provide the needs of university students from the occupied territories when and where conditions have made it impossible for the families to provide them with those needs. We have 1,050 such students here in our universities now. So, wherever and whenever possible we are going to help, not because anyone asks us, but because we want to as we have always sought to do our utmost to help the Palestinian people under occupation until they have recovered their rights and until conditions have changed. Thank you very very much indeed, ladies and gentlemen. I hope I've been able to help.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Made Responsible for Hostages

JN0508194688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] The Lebanese magazine AL-SHIRA' has reported that the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad organization, which holds a number of Western hostages in Lebanon has been disbanded. AL-SHIRA', the first to disclose the clandestine American arms sales to Iran via Israel known as Irangate, stressed that Hashemi-Rafsanjani, parliament speaker and acting chief of the Armed Forces, said he is personally taking over the Lebanese organization.

According to AL-SHIRA', the Islamic Jihad organization disintegrated rapidly following the capture of one of its leaders, 'Abbas Zurayq, who headed a commando group that had held up numerous banks. The magazine said 'Abbas Zurayq was apprehended by an Islamic party from which the organization received orders—an insinuation to Hizballah, Iran's principal ally in Lebanon.

In any case, the magazine emphasizes that Ayatollah Khomeyni has entrusted Hashemi-Rafsanjani with responsibility for the Western hostages held in Lebanon.

'Syrian Source' on Location of Hostages

NC0708051588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] A Syrian source has been cited as saying that the foreign hostages in Lebanon are divided into groups and held in three locations by a Hizballah wing directly subordinate to Iran. The first group is being detained in the southern suburb close to the contact lines. The second group is detained in the Iranian Embassy building in Beirut, and the third in the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in Ba'labakk. The last group includes the archbishop of Canterbury's envoy Terry Waite.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam is following up the hostage issue, arranging their moves to and from the Iranian Embassy building in Beirut and to Ba'labakk in an embassy car.

The Syrian source recalled that the Iranians are demanding the release of 17 political prisoners in Kuwait. Syria, however, refuses to discuss this matter, deeming it an internal Kuwaiti affair. The source pointed out that the release of the British hostages might be facilitated in the wake of improved relations between Iran and Britain. The fate of the other hostages, however, will continue to be linked with developments at the UN Security Council and the United Nations with regard to the Iraq-Iran war.

'Hot Point' Reached in Cordes Release Talks

NC0608170388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Abdelkader Sahraoui, a journalist of Algerian origin, who has been working for the release of FRG hostage Rudolf Cordes, has disclosed that the negotiations have reached a hot point that could lead to the swift release of the last FRG hostage being held in Lebanon. Sahraoui, a West German by nationality, pointed out that the ongoing negotiations include neither arms nor money in return for Cordes' release. He noted that he had met with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah recently. Sahraoui added that since Iran's acceptance of the UN resolution calling for a cease-fire in the Gulf war, political dialogue has become an essential condition for pushing not only Cordes' case but that of all the hostages.

Hostages' Release Expected Before Year-End

NC0708103988 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi has said he expects the foreign hostages in Lebanon to be released before the end of this year. Al-Rasi said in a press interview that although he does not have any new information regarding the hostage issue, he believes all matters pertaining to this issue have been postponed until after the [Lebanese] presidential elections.

Iranian 'Agents' Set To Disrupt Elections

NC0608074288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Aug (MENA)—The Saudi newspaper 'UKAZ has cited Lebanese sources as saying that pro-Iranian elements in Lebanon have made military preparations to disrupt the scheduled presidential election to create renewed chaos in the country. The paper publishes statements today by the same sources saying that Tehran's agents in Beirut have installed artillery and other weapons opposite the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies with the aim of launching attacks on it to prevent the election and to inflame the situation in the country. The sources add that these agents fear the possibility of restored stability and the election of a strong president who might demand their immediate expulsion from the country.

The sources affirm that Michel Iddih is currently the strongest candidate to become Lebanon's next president, particularly as he enjoys the support of both the Soviets and the Americans.

8 Killed, 9 Injured in Iqlim al-Kharrub

NC0808084588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] The security organs concerned are trying to end the state of tension which has prevailed in the Barja and Kitrmaya Townships of Iqlim al-Kharrub since last night. Clashes which broke out in the townships led to the deaths of PFLP-GC official Nabil Bashashah, his aide, and six others and to the wounding of nine others from among Kitrmaya inhabitants and Bashashah followers.

2 Wounded in East Beirut Rocket Exchange

NC0708055988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Two people were wounded in a security incident in Al-Dawrah [in East Beirut] at approximately 0330 today. The incident involved a limited exchange of rocket and machinegun fire. Security authorities intervened immediately and contained the incident.

Further Reportage on Visit by Richard Murphy

Begins Talks 4 Aug

JN0508175488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1704 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] The talks between Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asia Affairs, and the delegation accompanying him began at Bludan summer resort this evening.

U.S. Ambassador to Syria William Eagleton attended the meetings.

Murphy arrived here last night from Beirut, where he met with Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and President Amin al- Jumayyil.

Immediately after he arrived in Damascus, the Syrian-U.S. talks began at Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's office.

The talks extended into the night.

Informed sources say Murphy briefed Lebanese and Syrian officials on the results of his meeting in Geneva this week with his Soviet counterpart Vladimir Polyakov in which they discussed the region's issues, including King Husayn's decisions regarding the West Bank and the effect of these decisions on the region and Lebanon.

The talks focused on the presidential elections in Lebanon, the need that they should take place on the constitutional date set for them, the need that a compromise candidate should win, and the security atmosphere that should be secured for the elections.

Murphy had said that the task of the new president will not be easy and that he will have ahead of him constituional reform and national accord.

Murphy, who visited the city of Aleppo today, will spend his 2d night in Damascus before probably being received by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad tomorrow. He will then continue his tour and leave for Jordan and Egypt.

Received by Khaddam 5 Aug

JN0508182088 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this evening received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by William Eagleton, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with the situation in the region. The situation in Lebanon and its various developments were also reviewed.

Received by Al-Asad 6 Aug

JN0608114688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and his delegation at 1245 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus william Eagleton.

Gives Al-Asad Reagan Letter

JN0608183888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad at 1245 today received Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and U.S. Ambassador to Damascus William Eagleton.

Murphy gave a letter from President Reagan to President al-Asad, who handed him a reply letter.

Discussions during the meeting ranged over international and Arab developments with special emphasis on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Murphy and his delegation left Damascus at 1900 today.

Afghanistan

Further Reportage on Shevardnadze Visit

Security Increased for Visit

BK0708005088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0031 GMT 7 Aug 88

[By Bertrand de Saisset]

[Text] Kabul, Aug 7 (AFP)—Soviet counter-attacks since the end of July have succeeded in easing pressure from mujahidin rocket attacks on the Afghan capital, Western diplomats said here Sunday [7 August].

"Over the last 10 days" rocket attacks on Kabul have been "much less intense," a Western diplomat told a group of visiting foreign correspondents who arrived in Kabul from Moscow Saturday. Afghan officials, speaking in private, agreed with that assessment.

Soviet forces have succeeded in reinforcing the city's security cordon, especially the 20 to 30 kilometre (12.5 to 18.5 mile) zone, the diplomat said.

The rockets, which "make a whistling sound they make as they pass over Kabul," are however, still fall on the capital, he added. [sentence as received]

Diplomatic sources here attribute the many explosions every day on the mountainsides around the capital to Afghan government artillery fire.

Afghan officials said these explosions were due to "practice firing," an explanation Western experts said was difficult to believe.

The mujahidin fired hundreds of rockets into Kabul during July, prompting Moscow to launch a counter-attack at the end of the month in a bid to make the city less vulnerable. This counter-attack was still in progress, an Afghan official said.

The rebels can hit Kabul from a maximum distance of 35 kilometers (22 miles), using new larger rocket launchers, a diplomat said.

Unprecedented security measures were taken for the visit to Afghanistan by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Western and Afghan sources said.

Soviet-Afghan armed forces took up position in force on the road leading from the airport on the Soviet minister's arrival Thursday.

An Afghan official said Soviet armoured vehicles were stationed at intersections along Mr. Shevardnadze's route.

Soviet troops have also been been mobilized in force to protect the airport during his stay, the official added.

There is a continuous stream of military helicopters over the airport as aircraft, landing and taking off, pour out flares in order to confuse and deflect anti-aircraft missiles, such as the U.S.-made Stinger.

Talks Held With Najibullah

LD0508191388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah met today with E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, at Gol Khanah Palace, the headquarters of the presidency. During the meeting E.A. Shevardnadze conveyed greetings and good wishes to the president from M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

President Najibullah warmly recalled the recent meetings with M.S. Gorbachev in Tashkent and Moscow. E.A. Shevardnadze described the work of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference and the July plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

President Najibullah described the situation in Afghanistan and the progress of implementing the policy of national reconciliation in the country. A detailed exchange of opinions took place on issues linked with implementing the Geneva accords on a political settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan. In this context, particular attention was paid to the actions of Pakistan, which is systematically and seriously violating the obligations to which it agreed regarding noninterference, and which is effectively plotting international terrorism against the Republic of Afghanistan.

E.A. Shevardnadze informed the president about steps being taken by the USSR as a guarantor of the political settlement with the object of ending the violation of the Geneva accords.

Regarding the state of political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan, the sides stated that this was developing in a positive manner.

E.A. Shevardnadze and President Najibullah exchanged opinions on the results of the work of the third special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament. It was noted with satisfaction that the approaches of the two countries coincided on issues of disarmament and of ensuring international peace and security.

The conversation was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and N.G. Yegorychev, ambassador of the USSR in the Republic of Afghanistan, took part in the meeting.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD0508191888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Today Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq met with USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze. On behalf of the Soviet Government Sharq was handed an invitation to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

Issues of bilateral relations were thoroughly discussed during the ensuing talks, in which V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, participated. The state of and prospects for trade and economic links came in for detailed subject analysis, and stress was placed on the development of new forms of cooperation: direct links, mixed enterprises, and the use of private capital.

The Soviet side confirmed its readiness to provide the Afghan Government with assistance in tackling matters that arise from the return of those Afghans who have temporarily found themselves beyond its borders.

The plans for long-term trade and economic cooperation were examined, and also for the expansion of ties in the spheres of culture, education, and science.

The talks were held in a friendly and businesslike manner. N.G. Yegorychev, ambassador of the USSR in the Republic of Afghanistan, was present at the talks.

Confers With Abdul Wakil

LD0508192388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil has met with E. Shevardnadze, foreign affairs minister of the USSR. During an exchange of opinions, the present world situation was discussed. It was stressed that present conditions show that positive trends will continue to develop with added stimuli. The ministers noted that the conclusion of the Geneva accords has shown that a real chance exists to unblock regional conflicts in general. At the same time, they particularly stressed the importance of fulfilling the obligations by those party to these agreements. They confirmed that the continuing Pakistani interference in the affairs of Afghanistan is incompatible with the letter and spirit of the Geneva Accords. Questions connected with the forthcoming 43d session of the UN General Assembly were also a subject of discussion.

A. Wakil provided information about preparations for the conference of ministers of foreign affairs of the nonaligned countries, in which Afghanistan will take a most active part. The conversation was held in a warm and comradely atmosphere.

Meets Rafi', Sorabi, Others

LD0608180588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi', member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and vice president; Dr 'Abdul Wahed Sorabi, vice president; and 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat, vice president, today met with Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister. During the meeting senior Afghan representatives involved in the national reconciliation process said that the policy is stronger than before and is supported by the people of Afghanistan. They cited information indicating the strengthening of the state sovereignty and confidence in the president.

Eduard Shevardnadze said that the Soviet Union supports national reconciliation and the actions which have been taken to unify patriotic forces of the country and to normalize the situation in line with this policy.

During the meeting talks were conducted and deliberations were made on issues connected with the expansion of economic, cultural, and scientific relations.

Meets National Assembly Figures

LD0608185088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Dr Mahmud Habibi, chairman of the Senate, and Dr Khalil Ahmad Abawi, chairman of the National Assembly, today met with His Excellency Eduard Shevardnaze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.

During the meeting the presidents of the National Assembly chambers said that the parliament of Afghanistan, which started work 3 months ago after many years, had to tackle the important tasks related to the implementation of the constitution and, with regard to the present political situation, to the drafting of laws and regulations. The presidents of the National Assembly chambers said that the National Assembly represents people of all walks of life of Afghanistan and their interests.

His Excellency Eduard Shevardnaze voiced his hope for the sucess of the National Assembly.

Meets Commanders, Governors

LD0608192988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] According to a report, Lieutenant General Sayyed Muhammad Golabzoy, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and interior minister, and Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, chief of the General Staff of the Afghan Armed forces and candidate

member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee, met today with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo. During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues of mutual interests.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze also met with a number of the country's governors and military commanders: Herat Governor Fazl Haq Khaleqiar [name as heard]; Nangarhar Governor Wakil 'Azam Shinwarai; Brigadier General Barakzay, commander of the force in Paktia; (Asel Delawar), Nangarhar garrison commander; and Brigadier General Muhammad Da'ud, Herat commander.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters related to Soviet-Afghan cooperation, including developing direct ties between Soviet republics, regions, and cities and Afghan provinces and cities; improving those ties, and increasing their efficiency.

Talks With Najibullah End

LD0708165788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] The final phase of meetings between Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and His Excellency Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and the minister of foreign affairs of the Soviet Union, during which the results of the working visit by Eduard Shevardnadze were summed up, was completed today. Both sides emphasized complete accord on all the topics discussed in the meeting. A series of special arrangements, among them preparations for a trip in the near future by Esteemed Hasan Sharq, the prime minister of Afghanistan, and the planning of economic, scientific, technical, and cultural links at the level of experts, will be continued.

The president of the Republic of Afghanistan requested that his regards and good wishes be conveyed to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. A joint Afghan-Soviet communique was issued on talks in Kabul.

Meets With 'Enterpreneurs'

LD0808082188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 7, BAKHTAR—Politburo member of the CPSU CC, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union Eduard Shevardnadze, and Vladimir Kamentsev, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, made an all sided meet with a group of private entrepreneurs of Afghanistan here today.

In the course of the meeting, it was emphasised that at present the relations between the Soviet organizations and the Afghan commercial circles are growing activity. At the meeting also it was emphasised that reserves and further possibilities which have been existed [as received], on the basis of mutual interests will extend further.

Departs for Moscow

LD0708171388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] His Excellency Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the Soviet Union, and V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, left Kabul today for the Soviet Union after a working visit to the Republic of Afghanistan. The minister of foreign affairs of the Soviet Union and his delegation were seen off at Kabul International Airport by 'Abdul Wakil, member of Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, and some other officials. Among those seeing off the delegation was the Soviet ambassador and representative extraordinary to the Republic of Afghanistan, N.G. Yegorychev.

Prior to his departure, Eduard Shevardnadze answered questions by the BIA reporter during a news conference.

USSR's Kamentsev, Prime Minister Confer

LD0808081688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 7, BAKHTAR—Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq met Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, Vladimir Kamentsev here today.

Prime Minister Hasan Sharq briefed the guest delegation on present cooperations which exist between the two countries in the fields of economy, technology and culture and the course of realization of the national reconciliation policy and praised the Soviet cooperations in all spheres.

While expressing satisfaction of the Soviet Government on the expansion and deepening of mutual economic ties and their fruits Kamentsev expressed confidence that the Soviet Union will increase its economic aids to the Republic of Afghanistan under the present conditions which are of vital significance.

From the Afghan side: Muhammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce, Sultan Husayn, minister of planning and from the Soviet side, Nikolay Yegorychev, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan and some members of the guest delegation were present during the meeting as well.

Soviet General's Views 'Exploited' by Media
LD0708085588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 6, BAKHTAR—The Western propaganda circles are desperately striving to display the situation distorted in Afghanistan. Exploiting the personal view of the Soviet General Tsagolov published some time ago by OGONEK weekly, the Western media are referring to the Afghan leadership's incapability for defending the country and the people's interests after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Such hostile propaganda campaign of the West by no means conforms to the related facts in the Afghan society and is reckoned as enemy to the cause of peace of the people of Afghanistan.

A spokesman of the Soviet foreign minister reiterated in this connection that the words of the Soviet general under the present Soviet conditions is an ordinary phenomena and the publication of his view is the work of the magazine's editors, not the view of some official sources. The spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry stressed that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is enjoying a good prestige in the Afghan society and the policy of national reconciliation is fully conforming to the people's interests.

General Tsagolov, the Soviet general whose personal views are exploited by Western media, has served as an adviser in the Military Academy of Afghanistan in 1981-1984 and had a brief stay in Afghanistan in 1987. Hence his views on the situation in Afghanistan are due to his limited scope of his service here.

Spokesman Comments on Evacuation of Diplomats
LD0608220788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking about the evacuation from the Republic of Afghanistan of families and extra staff of the diplomatic missions of a number of Western countries—a move that has created a fresh wave of propaganda—said: The intensification of the armed extremists' subversive operations—with their firing of rockets at cities and residential areas, including Kabul city—and Pakistan's continued interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan—a clear infringement of the Geneva Accords—gave a new pretext to rumor-mongering and propaganda circles to reflect the instability of the situation in the Republic of Afghanistan.

The spokesman vigorously condemned these inhuman activities by the extremist elements, that result in the murder of our innocent compatriots, and the irresponsible attitude of the Pakistan Government toward the Geneva accords.

The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have taken serious measures for the seizure and annihilation of long-range rockets, with a range of 20-30 km, sent from Pakistan and which are the real cause of bloodshed, destruction, war, and the atmosphere of propaganda against our country. Fortunately, a considerable number of these rockets have been captured by the country's security forces.

The Republic of Afghanistan, in accordance with the Vienna Convention, has taken extra measures, in addition to those already taken for the security of diplomatic officials and their families in the host country. Even during 9 years of war no diplomatic officials or their families were injured in any way. We consider as a provocative act the creation of such hostile propaganda and the encouragement of some Western countries to recall families and some of their officials or diplomats.

By this move, they are trying to depict a situation of insecurity in Kabul on the eve of the completion of the withdrawal of 50 percent of the Soviet troops, in line with the Geneva accords. Moreover, it is clear that they resort to such acts to prove the correctness of their propaganda. We ask them not only to take into account their own security but also to condemn Pakistan's violations and actions, and to refrain from such acts. Therefore, not only would the diplomats and their families be safe, but innocent Afghans, including women and children, would be safe from the danger of rocket fire.

The spokesman of the Republic of Afghanistan added that, despite the intensification of terrorist acts by the extremists, it has the capability and authority to control the situation and maintain peace nationwide. It is trying to discharge its patriotic duty to maintain peace and security in the country during the withdrawal of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union.

Pakistani Charge Summoned on Alleged Attacks
LD0708083888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 6, OANA-BAKHTAR—The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the following notice was handed over to him by the director of the First Political Department of that ministry.

The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Afghanistan in Islamabad was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and he was told that as if the Afghan artillery forces shelled the Ghazni area in Bajaur Agency and the Chaman area on [?11], 21, and 23 of July respectively.

He was also told that on 17 and 26 July the Air Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan penetrated the air space of Pakistan and attacked Musa Nika and Serrazarda [placename as received] areas located in southern Waziristan.

After all sided investigations the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan consider the allegations of the Pakistani authorities totally baseless and void of truth. The Afghan side evaluates the Pakistani protest baseless and categorically refute it.

The Government of Afghanistan asks the Pakistani Government not to disturb the governing atmosphere created through the efforts of the Afghan side for the solution of situation around Afghanistan and normalisation of relations between the two countries through the launching of such allegations. Otherwise, its grave consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Iranian Charge Summoned on Refugee 'Massacre'

LD0708082288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 6, BAKHTAR—Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Iran in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the following note was given to him by director of political section of that ministry:

According to available information, the Iranian armed guards have collectively attacked on a large number of the Afghan refugees in the suburbs of Zahedan city. As a result of this cruel attack, thirty Afghan refugees including women and children were killed and some injured.

Whereas, an overwhelming majority of Afghan refugees residing in Iran want to return home by availing of the policy of national reconciliation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan believes that such inhuman acts are arising from the (?obstacles) created by the government of Iran on the voluntary return of Afghan refugees residing in Iran.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan has reckoned this bloody event as gross violations of the international accepted norms regarding the refugees and the principle of neighbourliness particularly between the two Islamic countries and thus lodges its serious protest against it. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the republic demands from the Government of Iran to punish the perpetrators of the massacre and to take the necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such events which runs against the international norms and to remove the obstacles created on the way of refugees to return to their homeland.

Charges of Using Chemical Warfare Denied

LD0608082088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 5, BAKHTAR—Radio "Voice of America" quoting one of the leaders of the so-called Jamiyat-e Eslami broadcasted a report on August 1st as if the Soviet forces had used the chemical materials i.e. poisonous gas against civilians in villages and pretend that "mujahidin" carry out such actions in order to arise wrath and indignation of the people against mujahidin.

By disseminating such false rumors and propaganda the extremist leaders want to divert the attention of our people to other side and thus to resort to the usage of chemical weapons themselves. For instance, the armed extremists attached to the Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic party) Afghanistan have used chemicals against the civilians in Lowgar Province with close cooperation of the Pakistani military advisers.

Rebelling such false accusations by the extremist and Pakistani conspiracies during the undeclared war against Afghanistan is not a new phenomenon. [sentence as received]

Reaction and imperialism made such desperate efforts in the past too to discredit the Afghan-Soviet friendship and presence of the Soviet military contingent in Afghanistan even in the UN level.

Thus, the UN sent a delegation headed by Esmat 'Aziz to Afghanistan to assess the issue. The precise and all-sided studies of the region proved that no witness and evidence existed to show usage of chemical weapons in Afghanistan by the Soviet and Afghan Armed Forces.

Moreover, chemical weapons made in the USA were brought to Afghanistan to allege charges against the Afghan and Soviet forces. Fortunately, each time the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan timely discovered and captured the chemical weapons.

Clashes Between Government Forces, Rebels Noted

Success Against Rebels

LD0508191088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Summary] According to the BAKHTAR military correspondent, the security forces have carried out the following operations:

Seven surface-to-surface long-range missiles were seized in (Pachin) and Agam, Nangahar Province. The "extremists" intended to attack Jalalabad with these missiles.

In a recent operation in Shiveh, Nangahar Province, 5 "criminals" were "crushed" and 11 others were badly injured. Arms and ammunition were destroyed.

In Paghman, Kabul Province, nine "extremists" were "crushed." Two rocket launchers, their shells, and 12 antivehicle mines were destroyed.

'Extremists' Kill 9 in Jalalabad

LD0608220588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Extremists killed 9 people, 7 children and 2 women, and injured 10 others last night when they fired surface-to-surface missiles at a residential area in District 3 of Jalalabad. A house was also destroyed as a result of this crime by the extremists.

Mujahidin Operations Detailed

BK0708060288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the Najibullah regime troops' fresh attacks against mujahidin positions on the outskirts of Kabul have badly failed. The reports say the Kabul combined forces suffered heavy loss of life and property and the mujahidin have further strengthened their fortifications around the Kabul capital area.

Another report says that the mujahidin now control most of the Asalabad-Jalalabad road, and the movement of the Kabul regime's troops is now limited to major towns only.

The mujahidin carried out a surprise attack on the Kabul troops at Mangal Kheyl on the Kabul road and killed 25 of them.

The mujahidin in various operations in Khenjan area of Baghlan Province killed about 40 troops and captured 12. In the same province, the mujahidin carried out rocket attacks on military posts near the (Farakaqan) area, destroying two of them.

According to the reports received from Nimruz Province, the mujahidin attacked the Zaranj military base with rockets, inflicting heavy loss of life and property.

Bangladesh

President Ershad Reshuffles Cabinet 6 Aug

BK0608174088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1720 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 6 (AFP)—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad Saturday reshuffled his cabinet inducting an expatriate Bangladeshi economist to head the Finance Ministry and changing portfolios of some existing ministers, officials said.

Dr. Wahidul Haque, an economist and professor of mathmatics at Canada's University of Toronto, was sworn in as minister of finance, replacing long-serving Abdul Munin, a retired major general, the officials said.

Dr. Haque recently returned to Pakistan [as received] from Canada amid speculation that he would join the government of Mr. Ershad as minister.

Dhaka television broke the news earlier saying the president had administered oath to Dr. Haque at a simple ceremony at his Secretariat Saturday.

Bangladesh's BSS News Agency reported that Mr. Ershad had reallocated some of the portfolios of existing ministers.

Deputy Prime Minister Shah Mo'azzim Hussain has been shifted from the local government to the Ministry of Labour and Manpower. Mr. Hussain, who is also secretary general of the ruling Jatiya Party, is now on a visit to Britain and the United States.

Mr. Munim, formerly of finance, will now look after Health and Family Planning Ministry.

The Labour and Manpower Minister Sirajul Hussain Khan will now head the Livestock and Fisheries Ministry.

Jute Minister Korban Ali and Shipping Minister Mayeedul Islam were asked to exchange their ministries.

Saturday's cabinet reshuffle came amid persistent press speculation in recent weeks that President Ershad would revamp his government after returning from a pilgrimage late last month.

The present cabinet of Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed was formed on March 27 after the March 3 parliamentary election.

India

Seven Opposition Parties Form National Front

BK0608151588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Seven opposition parties and groups have formed a national front. The constituents of the front are: the Janata Party, Lok Dal, Congress-S, Telugu Desam, DMK, Asom Gana Parishad, and Jan Morcha. This was announced by the Telugu Desam leader, Mr N.T.Rama Rao, at a press conference in New Delhi today. Leaders of the other constituent parties were also present.

Mr Rama Rao said the main objective of the National Front is to build up a democratic, secular, and socialist state and provide clean and efficient administration. It will ensure decentralization of economic and political powers. Under the draft constitution, the front will have a national council, presidium, and secretariat in Delhi. It will have a common flag and a manifesto. The Lok Sabha elections will be fought on the basis of this manifesto. The constituent parties will have separate manifesto for assembly elections.

Chairman, Policy Announced

BK0708162988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] The Telugu Desam leader, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, is the chairman of the newly formed National Front of seven opposition parties and groups. The Jan Morcha leader, Mr V.P. Singh, is its convener. The announcement was made at a news conference in New Delhi this afternoon by the Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, in the presence of leaders of the constituent bodies of the front.

The front will be formally launched on 16th of next month at a rally to be held in Madras. The seven parties and groups are: Janata, Lok Dal, Congress-S, Telugu Desam, DMK, Asom Gana Parishad, and Jan Morcha. There will be an 11-member presidium comprising Mr Rama Rao, Mr V.P. Singh, Mr Ajit Singh, Mr H.N. Bahuguna, Mr S.C. Sinha, Mr Karunanidhi, Mr Ram Dhan, Mr P.K. Mahanta, Mr Devi Lal, Mr R.K. Hegde, and Mr Biju Patnayak. Mr Patnayak is also chairman of the front's national campaign committee. Another committee will work out an action plan based on common minimum program of the front.

Addressing newsmen, Mr Rama Rao said that the National Front will be committed to the unity and integrity of the country. It will work for the welfare of the poorer sections and removal of corruption.

Mr V.P.Singh, who attended today's meeting, said that the front is based on issues and programs and it will identify itself for the problems of the masses.

Both Mr Rama Rao and Mr V.P. Singh said the front will work to provide an alternative to the Congress-I.

Leaders of the front, who met in New Delhi for the second day today, adopted a resolution suggesting an immediate cease-fire in Sri Lanka and negotiations by the Indian Government with the LTTE and other groups to solve the ethnic Tamil problem.

The front also adopted resolutions condoling the death of the former Bihar chief minister, Mr Karpuri Thakur, and expressing sympathies for the families of the victims in yesterday's boat tragedy in Bihar.

Sri Lanka Cease-Fire Urged

BK0708145788 Hong Kong AFP in English 1344 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 7 (AFP)—A newly formed opposition front of seven Indian political parties Sunday called for a ceasefire in Sri Lanka and negotiations with Tamil guerrillas fighting Indian troops in the island. The Rashtriya Morcha, or National Front, said in a statement that New Delhi's war with Tamil rebels had made a political settlement of the Sri Lankan ethnic conflict "more difficult and complex."

It was the first major decision taken by the alliance, which groups four national and three regional parties and was formed Saturday to mount a joint bid in next year's general elections to oust Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

The statement, read at a news conference after a meeting of the front partners, said: "This meeting calls upon the Government of India to declare an immediate ceasefire in Sri Lanka and start negotiations with LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) and other groups for bringing about a satisfactory and durable accord."

Indian troops in Sri Lanka launched an offensive to disarm the LTTE October 10 after the militant group rejected a 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord which sought to end a separatist campaign. Front spokesman Parvatheneni Upendra told reporters that the 1987 accord was "obsolete" and "is no longer functioning."

He also announced that Andhra Pradesh State Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao, who heads the regional Telegu Desam Party, and Mr. Gandhi's former cabinet colleague, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, would be the front's chairman and convenor, respectively. Mr. Upendra, a Telegu Desam MP [Member of Parliament], also announced an eight-member Presidium, a Campaign Committee and a Secretariat to be based here.

The National Front, the first such experiment in India, would be formally launched September 16 in Madras, capital of southern Tamil Nadu State, he said.

Mr. Rama Rao, an actor-turned-politician, said the front would be an alternative to Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, which is increasingly under attack over charges of corruption. "We pledge ourselves to root out corruption and poverty and give a pure administration to the people," he said, adding that he felt "honoured" that the alliance made him its chairman.

Mr. Pratap Singh, who quit Mr. Gandhi's Cabinet last year, said the new alliance was "not only to throw (out) a government which people do not trust, but also to set up a new social order based on social justice."

Besides Mr. Pratap Singh's Jan Morcha, a party of ex-Congress (I) members, the three other national parties in the alliance are the centrist Janata (People's) Party, the rural-based Lok Dal (Masses Party) and the minor Congress-S (Socialist) Party. The Telegu Desam, the Asom Gana Parishad, which rules northeastern Assam State, and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the largest opposition party in Tamil Nadu, are the three regional member-parties.

The front was formed 11 days after the four national partners in the alliance said they were merging into a single party, the Samajwadi Janata Dal, or Socialist People's Party, which is to be formally launched by August 15, India's Independence Day.

Front sources said the new alliance was keen on adopting a centrist image and had therefore kept away from both the right-wing Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party and the two mainstream communist parties.

India's traditionally divided opposition parties moved to bury ideological and personality differences and unite against Congress (I) after a major corruption scandal hit the ruling party last year. The scandal centred on allegations that top Congress (I) politicians and Defence Ministry officials had accepted bribes to help the Swedish Bofors arms company win a 1.3 billion dollar contract. General elections are due in December 1989.

President's Rule in Nagaland; Assembly Dissolved

BK0708155988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Nagaland has come under president's rule. The state assembly has been dissolved. A presidential proclamation was issued in New Delhi to this effect a short while ago. According to the Home Ministry, this action under Article 356 of the Constitution was taken on the basis of a report sent by the governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao. In his report, the governor said a situation has arisen in the state in which the government cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. It recommended that the state be placed under president's rule. The union cabinet earlier considered the report and recommended to the president the imposition of the central rule and dissolution of the assembly.

The Hokisha Sema ministry in Nagaland faced a political crisis following the resignation of 13 Congress-I MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly] from the party last week. This reduced the strength of the Congress-I Party in the 60-member assembly to 21. Four independent members also withdrew the support to the Sema ministry, further deepening the crisis. The opposition parties along with the dissidents later formed a new regional party staking their claim to form a ministry in the state. The Congress-I efforts to resolve the political crisis were also not successful.

Opposition Protests

BK0808095288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Almost the entire opposition in both houses of Parliament today staged a walkout on the issue of proclamation of president's rule in Nagaland. In the Rajya Sabha, as soon as the house assembled for the day opposition members were on their feet demanding the suspension of the question hour so that a discussion on the proclamation can be held.

A ruling party member suggested that they should go through the question hour and members can seek clarifications when a copy of the proclamation is laid on the table. Opposition members continued to protest in support of their demand. The chairman, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, then allowed Mr M.S. Gurupadaswamy, Janata [Party] to move a motion for the suspension of the question hour.

Mr Gurupadaswamy, who moved the motion, alleged that the center has misused provisions of the Constitution while proclaiming president's rule in Nagaland. He also alleged that the center had violated the democratic norms. His motion was then put to vote. It was rejected by the house by a voice vote.

The chairman then urged the opposition members to allow the question hour to proceed. But most of the opposition members walked in to the well of tne house raising slogans which were countered from the ruling benches. At 1200 [0630 GMT] noon when the chairman announced the end of the question hour, opposition members resumed their seats but protested that the government has not laid the relevant papers under Article 356 of the Constitution. The deputy chairman, Mr Pradipa Patil, who was in the chair, asked the minister of state for home, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, to lay the papers under the supplementary business. As the minister was doing so, the entire opposition walked out in protest. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr Bhagat, then announced that the house will take up the discussion on the Nagaland issue shortly today.

The matter was raised during zero hour in the Lok Sabha. The house witnessed a noisy scene as Professor Madhu Dandavati, Janata, and other opposition members insisted that no important policy announcement can be made outside when the Parliament is in session. The speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, cited previous rulings of the house saying that there is nothing in Article 356 which enjoins on the president to consult the Parliament before issuing a proclamation.

The speaker said the house can have a discussion on the issue this afternoon. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, then laid a copy of the proclamation of president's rule in Nagaland on the table. Not satisfied with the speaker's ruling, almost the entire opposition staged a walk out.

The lone Congress-I member also to join the walkout was Mr G.G. Swell.

Ministers on Nuclear Arms, Pakistan, Siachen

BK0608090088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.K. Tiwari, said India will review its nuclear options if Pakistan goes nuclear. He was addressing intellectuals, scholars and diplomats in New Delhi today. The minister said Pakistan is now capable of making a nuclear bomb, which holds a definite threat to India's security.

Meanwhile, addressing newsmen at Dachiram National Park in Srinagar today, the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has assured that India will remain militarily prepared to meet any eventuality. He expressed concern over the continued supply of large-scale military hardware by the United States to Pakistan. He said India is manufacturing sophisticated equipment indigenously to meet this threat.

Answering a question, Mr Pant said there had been incidents of firing recently in the Siachen Glacier area. However, there were no casualties on either side.

On firing in Jammu sector, the minister said this had been going on intermittently for a long time.

Mr Pant pointed out that a number of exchanges had taken place at the political level to improve relations with China.

Pakistan Responsible for 'Encouraging Terrorism'

BK0708094688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] The director general of Punjab police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, has said that Pakistan is encouraging terrorism in Punjab by supplying not only free arms but also providing financial assistance to the terrorists. Mr Gill told newsmen in Batala that this was revealed during the interrogation of the recently arrested terrorists. He said a letter seized from a terrorist revealed that the dreaded terrorist Avtar Singh Brahma is now in Pakistan.

SAARC Convention Against Terrorism Ratified

BK0608085988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] India has ratified the SAARC regional convention on the suppression of terrorism. This was stated by an official spokesman in New Delhi yesterday. With this, all the seven member countries of the SAARC have ratified the convention signed by the foreign ministers last November.

2 'Terrorists' Killed, 8 Arrested in Punjab 5 Aug

BK0508155888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] In Punjab, security forces today arrested eight terrorists and killed two others in separate encounters in different parts of the state. Five terrorists were arrested after a brief encounter near Phagwara in Kapurthala District this morning. In another encounter, two terrorists were killed in village Paniala. The encounter followed the BSF [Border Security Force] raid on a farm house where the terrorists were hiding.

Security forces also claimed to have arrested three terrorists involved in a number of bomb blasts and killings in Jullundur, Ludhiana and Kapurthala district. Large quantities of arms, including 6 and ½ kilograms of explosives, were recovered from them.

'Terrorists' Kill 4 in Punjab

BK0608093588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Four people have been killed by terrorists in Punjab since last night. They include a member of the SGPC, Mr Sant Singh. He was shot dead by two terrorists at his shop in the grain market at Kharag Town in Rupar District this morning.

Two farmers were killed at Punia village in Amritsar District. One more farmer was shot dead at Konke village in Ludhiana District. One shop attendant was seriously injured in the Ludhiana city.

9 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK0708162588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Security forces nabbed nine terrorists from different places of Punjab last night. According to an official spokesman, the arrests followed raids on their hideouts in Sangrur, Gurdaspur, and Kapurthala Districts. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered.

Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot dead four persons, two farm laborers in Jullundur and two persons in Amritsar District.

Four Former Sikh Head Priests Rearrested

BK0708064288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] The Punjab police rearrested four sacked head priests, including Bhai Jasbir Singh Rhode soon after his release in Amritsar yesterday. A police spokesman said the arrests were made in apprehension of breach of peace. The former Akal Takht jathedar [Golden Temple religious leader], Mr Gurdev Singh Konke, released along with 15 followers, was also rearrested. The head priests and their followers were [previously] arrested on 12 May when they tried to march toward the Golden Temple, violating the prohibitory orders.

Scientists Still Working on INSAT-1C Snag

BK0708092388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] The INSAT-1C remained crippled near its space home. Scientists of the Indian Space Research Organization and the Ford Aerospace, who built the spacecraft, are still grappling with the snag that has reduced its power availability by nearly 50 percent. In the event of

the current maneuvers to revive the solar power pack failing to yield the desired result, the ISRO will be left with no alternative but to partially abandon the INSAT-1C mission.

Iran

Further Reportage on Iraqi Move on Direct Talks

Velayati, Perez de Cuellar Meet

LD0508145688 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] New York, August 5, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Thursday held his seventh round of talks with the U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar here on the Security Council Resolution 598.

In a meeting also attended by an Iranian delegation Velayati and Perez de Cuellar reviewed the executive plan of the UN General Secretary General and later Perez de Cuellar briefed the Iranian delegation on his talks with the Security Council.

Also in the meeting the U.N. chief's military adviser thanked the Islamic Republic for having warmly received the U.N. technical team which visited Tehran and Baghdad last week in an effort to explore the ways and means for implementing the resolution. The team is to submit to Perez de Cuellar a report of its visit to the two capitals.

Early this week, the U.N. secretary-general said that he would announce the date for a cease-fire after receipt of the report of the technical team's report, though such a date cannot yet be predicted.

For obvious reasons on Wednesday and Thursday here the Iraqi delegation evaded interview with reporters.

Velayati also held talks with the Indian foreign minister, the Soviet charge d'affaires, and Libyan and Algerian ambassadors in the United Nations. Narasimha Rao is to visit Tehran shortly in relation with Iran-India forthcoming joint commission which is to be held in Tehran later in the summer.

Velayati and Libyan ambassador to the United Nations discussed Iran-Libya cooperation at the international scene and the relations between the two countries. Velayati also agreed to visit Tripoli at a near future.

Iraq Asks Cease-Fire First

LD0608165288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] The Iraqi regime's news agency announced today that the regime has withdrawn its precondition for negotiations with Iran in order to agree to a cease-fire. According to our reports, the Iraqi regime is now asking for direct talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran after a cease-fire. We remind you that Iran has already announced it would only accept direct talks after a cease-fire, within the framework of Resolution No 598, and when it is necessary.

Diplomatic 'Success' Claimed

LD0708123488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Aug 77

[Report by unidentified correspondent from London on Iraq's withdrawal of its precondition for direct talks and its acceptance of a cease-fire as steps toward the implementation of UN Resolution No 598; date not given—recorded]

[Text] After about 3 weeks of intense diplomatic campaigning in open and closed negotiations—in the Security Council and (?using the facilities) of the UN—among representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq and the UN secretary general for implementing Security Council Resolution No 598, finally, with the withdrawal of Iraq's stated precondition for direct talks, the dawn of Iran's diplomatic success has arrived.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar early this morning, Tehran time, in his eighth meeting in the past 3 weeks with Dr Velayati, informed our foreign minister that the Iraqi Government has accepted direct talks after a cease-fire.

Immediately after that meeting, Iran's delegation issued an official statement announcing: Now that Iraq's precondition has been eliminated from the current efforts, the secretary general may immediately begin enacting his plan to implement Security Council Resolution No 598 and, with the announcement of a cease-fire, may proceed with implementing the other clauses of the resolution.

The statement says Iran remains prepared to accept direct talks within the framework of Resolution No 598 and the secretary general's plan for implementation, under the UN secretary general's supervision.

In the meantime, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced that he will probably declare a cease-fire date by Tuesday in a move toward implementing Resolution No 598.

After the elimination of the Iraq's precondition was announced, Perez de Cuellar returned to the UN Headquarters in New York last night and immediately resumed his meetings and consultations with UN technical experts. UN experts believe Iraq, which has been under intense pressure from the Security Council and even from its friends, was finally forced to accede to the Security Council's demand and accept a cease-fire.

On this basis, the path toward a cease-fire has been opened. In the opinion of UN diplomats, with the whole authority that the UN secretary general has received

from the Security Council, we should see the important and preliminary step of his announcement of a cease-fire date toward the end of this week.

Velayati Meets Soviet Envoy

LD0508212088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] The UN representative of the Soviet Union met today and conferred with Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, who is in New York. The Central News Unit reports that at the meeting the Soviet representative delivered a message from the Soviet Government to Mr Velayati concerning the current diplomatic efforts by the United Nations on implementing a cease-fire. He said: The Soviet Government declares its full support for the efforts by the UN secretary general within the framework of the secretary general's implementation plan and Resolution No 598.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Cease-Fire Prospects

LD0708072888 Tehran IRNA in English 0719 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—Majlis speaker and acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces said Saturday that Iran was happy with its new position and seriously intent on ending the eight-year-old war with Iraq.

However, he stressed that Iran will continue its defence "for clear reasons" and "our forces will remain on the alert in the war fronts until the time we make sure they (the Iraqis) has stopped their mischiefs."

The speaker's remarks came in a meeting with Indian ambassador here Ramish Chander Arora and hours before Iraq announced it has dropped its pre-condition for face-to-face talks with Iran prior to cease fire.

The Indian ambassador told Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani that his government believes Iran's acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 598 will pave the way for peace in the region. He also congratulated him on his recent appointment by Imam Khomeyni as the country's military supremo and said this has put the events in their correct path.

Arora also expressed his country's interest in having a share in Iran's reconstruction after the war.

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the Indian envoy that there were some undisclosed reasons why Iran had accepted the U.N. Resolution but repeated an earlier remark by the leader of the Islamic Revolution that "it is not a tactic" and "we really want to see the end of the war and establishment of peace in the region."

He said over the past two weeks since Iran had accepted the resolution the world clearly witnessed that those (Iraq) who claimed to be seeking peace and the end of the war, were not honest in their claims. As an example, the speaker referred to Iraq's renewed extensive use of internationally-banned chemical weapons against civilians in Oshnoviyeh, northwestern Iran, this week which injured hundreds of women, children and men.

The acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces believed Iraq's pretexts, including its demand for direct talks before ceasefire was unacceptable. He repeated Iran's stance that "we are not opposed to direct talks but will not accept any pre-condition in the explicit implementation of the resolution."

Furthermore, the speaker accused Iraq and Iran's other enemies of having a hand in the assassination of the prominent Pakistani Sh'ite religious leader 'Allamah Hussain al-Hussaini last Friday. "You have heard the news... a religious leader is assassinated because of his support for the Islamic Republic. In Sudan Ayatollah Hakim's son (Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mehdi Hakim) is martyred on the same charge. If they were supporters of oppressive powers, would news imperialism treat them the same way (playing down the news of their assassination)?"

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the downing of the Iranian Airbus by the U.S. Navy over the Persian Gulf waters last month which killed 290 innocent passengers, as a "clear manifestation of terrorism by the imperialists."

"These events tell us that war-mongering, terrorism and invulnerability [as received] are all committed by our enemies, and the world public opinion will eventually realise who is right," he stressed.

Today, he said, all the power blocs, international circles, the non-aligned countries and all others must be tried here and "we hope the result of this test would not be bitter and disappointing for the world."

Further on Remarks

LD0708093188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] The Indian ambassador to Tehran yesterday met Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani the Majlis speaker and acting commander in chief. During this meeting the Indian ambassador said that when the Government of Iran announced its acceptance of the cease-fire, our government was pleased, believing this move to be helpful in paving the way toward establishing peace in the region.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani responded: For various reasons we have not yet disclosed why we accepted Security Council Resolution No 598. As his holiness the imam explicitly said, this is not a tactical move; we seriously want to end the war and secure peace in the region. Meanwhile, in the past 2 weeks, it has become obvious that those who claim to want peace and an end to the war were not speaking seriously.

It seems that the world public is happy over this development. However, those, who in some way had an interest in the war, today are showing their erstwhile hypocrisy, particularly Iraq and its supporters, and those who encouraged it to begin the war. Then, when Iraq's defeat seemed inevitable, they emerged from behind the curtain and, in effect, went to war with us. Almost all the world powers were united against us. Apparently, the reason for this impunity was that Iran is inflexible and a warmonger, and that it does not want peace to prevail in the region.

The acting commander in chief added: However, it became clear just who is continuing the mischief after our acceptance of the UN resolutio, using chemical weapons in the towns of Oshnoviyeh and Sar Dasht, with 2,000 people affected by the poison. They resort to unacceptable excuses, such as direct talks. On this Mr Khamene'i, in his Friday prayer sermons, said we were not opposed to direct talks but we were opposed to setting preconditions that would contradict the resolution's explicit articles.

The Majlis speaker added: Now they are resorting to acts of terrorism against us; that is, the very same things they accused us of doing. You have heard about the assassination and martyrdom of 'Allamah 'Arif Hussain al-Hussaini in Pakistan. A religious leader is assassinated because he supported the Islamic Republic, and in Sudan the son of Mr Hakim was also martyred, guilty of the same thing. Would the imperialist media have treated their assassinations the way they did if those killed had supported the arrogant powers?

The criminal shooting down of the Iranian Airbus and the tragic martyrdom of 290 people is a clear example of the imperialists' terrorism. Recently, the United States itself admitted the airplane was within its air corridor, the ship's instruments had not been wrong, and the fault lies with the U.S. military personnel.

We deduce from these events that warmongering, terrorism, and inflexibility are practiced by our enemies. The world's public will ultimately see who is right. We are pleased with our new position and are determined to seriously continue our moves to end the war. However, out of a lack of confidence, we are keeping our forces on the fronts on standby. With clear reasons and arguments we will continue to defend ourselves until such time as they stop their mischief.

Today all powers, all world centers, all nonaligned countries, and others must be put to the test here. We pray that the result of the test will not be bitter and disappointing for the world. Of course, if the war continues we will defend ourselves with more power and with more justification. The world saw our march pledging allegiance to the imam. National unity, the leadership's power and influence, and the people's preparedness in supporting the leadership's objectives are at their peak. The volunteer forces have expanded their presence on the fronts more than at any other time. The clarity of the logic of our wise and defensive move is now obvious to world governments. It is natural for us to be prepared to continue our defense, today even more than before.

Khamene'i Says Position 'Strengthened'
LD0508181888 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, August 5, IRNA—By accepting the U.N. Security Council's Resolution 598 the Islamic Republic politically strengthened its position, said President 'Ali Khamene'i who was talking to a large number of Iranian Muslim combatants in an operation region on Thursday.

Khamene'i who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) stressing the fact that the Iranian nation should be familiar with the global arrogance's tricks said that the Islamic Revolution is like a young tree among all kinds of hostilities.

This is not peculiar to the Islamic Revolution of the Iranian nation, rather it concerns any nation which seeks the same ideals and enjoys the same resistance as the imam and the Iranian nation do, said the president, adding that even Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had such enemies.

I can see a bright prospect for the Islamic Republic in future, he said, noting that today Iran is stronger than it was in 1979.

The Islamic Republic is now an example for the oppressed nations around the world and this is due to God's will and the resistance of the Iranian nation and its leader, said Khamene'i.

On the Iraqi imposed war the president said that today Iraqi is considered as the aggressor and this is what the Islamic Republic has always tried to prove.

Khamene'i likened Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 to Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) "Hodeybya" peace agreement, adding that prophet's peace agreement strengthened Islam and the acceptance of the resolution made the Islamic Republic and the revolution stronger.

On the reasons why the global arrogance started a military attack on Iran, Khamene'i said that the global arrogance spent billions of dollars to weaken the Islamic Republic, but after eight years of war Iran has become stronger.

Khamene'i giving necessary guidelines to Muslim combatants called upon them to maintain their preparedness.

Warns Iraq on UN Resolution

LD0608071688 Tehran IRNA in English 0709 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Operational Region, Aug. 6, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamane'i said here Friday night if Iraq tampers with the UN Resolution 598 and threatens Iran with military attacks the Iranian forces will wipe out the battered Iraqi Armed Forces.

Addressing a large group of Muslim combatants he added that in the course [of] eight years of the Iraqi-imposed war the enemy has proven its hypocritical nature to the Iranians. However, the world people were not yet aware of it till Iran accepted the resolution on July 18 and Iraq started making hindering moves.

A positive outcome of Iran's acceptance of the resolution was that it offset poisonous propaganda of enemies of Iran and proved to world that Iran was right in its judgement of the Baghdad regime.

Elsewhere in his speech he said that ever since Iran's acceptance of the resolution Iraq has been making contradictory moves, accepting it on the one hand and rejecting the UN secretary general's plan for its implementation, and bombarding Iranian cities and martyring civilians at the same time.

According to the president at present some world powers are backing Saddam and encouraging him to commit more crimes and refuse accepting the resolution. If necessary, he stressed, Iran will reveal names of these powers.

"Saddam (Husayn) is terribly mistaken if he thinks through these moves he will force the Iranian nation to retreat," he said stressing that the Iranian nation will never be defeated. A nation who does not fear death will not give in to force, he added.

The president urged the combatants to maintain their combat readiness till the time they completely repel the enemy from Iranian territories. He added that Iran does not want to be the first one to launch a thrust into Iraq but made it clear that if Iraq repeats its mistake and enters Iranian territory, the Iranian youth will deal a crushing blow on the enemy.

Meanwhile the president in a session with operational commanders here Friday night discussed the latest developments in war fronts and logistic needs of the combat units.

The commanders reported on combat readiness of their units and presence of volunteer forces in battle fronts.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

Sermon on Economic Independence

LD0508171388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Tehran University on 5 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God, the Lord of the two worlds. [passage omitted] First, I offer greetings on the occasion of the 'Eid al-Ghadir to all sisters, brothers and committed Muslims. [passage omitted] These are among the rare sayings of the prophet in which he designates his successor for the period following his death. In the today's terminology, these are the prophet's political will and testament for the world of Islam. [passage omitted]

Today, at a time when we have established the Islamic Republic, we know that the first pillar of the government is the rule of the jurisconsult; that is, if the rule of the jurisconsult were eliminated from the Islamic Republic regime, than that regime would be like a rosary whose string has snapped: All the beads would fall off and everything would be mixed up. Moreover, the roots, the base, and the essence of the rule of the jurisconsult is the jurisconsult himself, who has jurisdiction over us all, all of which is crystallized on 'Eid al-Ghadir. [passage omitted]

The second issue which I believe is necessary to think about most sincerely is the gratitude due to all those who, in response to the call of His Holiness Ayatollah Montazeri, participated in the great march to renew their allegiance to the imam of ummah. The response was great; it silenced our enemies. Many times such participation in marches has forced the enemies to give up hope, while the friends of God and the revolution rejoiced. Participants came from all walks of life; they held marches everywhere, in provincial capitals, big cities, small towns, and districts. No one could say the crowds marched in only one province. [passage omitted] This march produced many positive reactions, which we had anticipated, on a worldwide basis and in international forums. It proved to them that the revolution still is alive, it still breathes, it still grows, it still has a message, it is neither worn out nor broken down. [passage omitted] The revolution has not suffered the slightest injury.

I must remind you that today is the day when the charter of the constitutional monarchy was decreed by Mozaffarredin Shah [in 1960] which came about through the pressure exerted by a cross section of the people and public opinion led by the committed clergy of the era. Whenever the people have followed the committed clergy and acted under their guidance, they have always reaped blessings. In those days the constitution entailed many blessings, and of course, some losses. When the

people were under mental pressure and when the clerics of the time, accompanied by a number of people, migrated to Qom in a gesture of protest, the Qajar court [the dynasty ruling Iran before the Pahlavis] was forced to sign the charter of the constitution. [passage omitted]

However, that same constitutional movement that was achieved through the blood of the martyrs, as well as through the clergy's pressure and their martyrs, then disintegrated on that black day which we witnessed. It was a bitter experience for us.

Unfortunately, those who today champion the cause of the constitutional monarchy are now a remanent of those who plunged Iran's constitutional movement into that disgraceful state. Now they are beating their breasts at the side of the corpse of the constiutional movement. Today these people champion the cause of the constitutional monarchy as if it were the legacy of their father. They have not even read the history of the consitutional movement to find out how it occured, through whose efforts it happened ,and who put pressure on the court.

In any case, on the occasion of the sad martyrdom of the leader of the Pakistani Shi'ites 'Arif Hussain al Hussaini. [incomplete sentence as heard] According to the radio report, he was assassinated at 0800 after the morning prayers by the hand of arrogance's stooges. It has not yet been reported who committed this assassination. We think that the agents of the region's criminal, Saddam, [are responsible]. Such mischief is his doing. After all, the late Seyyed Mehdi Hakim [brother of present chairman of Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq who was assassinated in Sudan], and so on and so on. [incomplete sentence as heard] Wherever they go, some clues are found in the pockets of this gentleman [Saddam Husayn] [passage omitted]

These were preliminaries remarks which I wanted to talk about, five or six points in all. The rest of my sermon is a reminder to my dear brothers, a very necessary reminder at this time to which a great deal of thought must be devoted. At this time, when our dear leader has accepted Resolution No 598, work continues as they negotiate. They must agree on the clauses of the resolution, the cease-fire, or else. [sentence as heard] In any case, they are now locked in negotiations; it is the beginning of the end the war, a possibility, albeit a considerable possibility. It depends on how much mischief Iraq resorts to, if it considers this a game, and so on. On the orders of the imam, the resolution has been accepted with sincerity. We stand by our word. On his orders, our Foreign Ministry is engaged in discussions. It is drawing up policy on the issue.

Now if all this eventually leads to peace, the mischief and the crimes of the criminal, we assume, will end. Then we must recognize that for the resolution to lead to peace, our war with Iraq must end, but our revolution has not ended. In fact, we must say that the revolution has not yet begun.

They wanted to throw an obstacle in our path to divert us; they forced us away from services which we had to perform. [passage omitted] Brothers, sisters, do not promise yourself this. God willing, the war will end and we will have a good meal to satisfy our hunger.

In other words, it is still too soon for us to spend our money, to import luxury and nonluxury goods, and to be subjected to policies—subjected to the open-door policies—in our economy.

During the first days, the Revolutionary Council passed a law, and that law is still in force. It states: The existence of foreign firms and multinationals is forbidden in revolutionary Iran. This is law in the country. However, the Revolutionary Council neglected to mention that this law should be fully applied, that even those foreign firms here now should be closed down. It stated that they should not exist here. Eight to 9 years have already passed and we are still burdened by this problem. From that time up to now, the doors of foreign companies have been closed, even though they wanted to stay open. However, we have not been able to close down foreign companies and multinationals that were already here. We hope that the Islamic [as heard] Council, will ratify a two-sentence bill at the first opportunity and urgently state that those foreign companies and multinationals that were in Iran before the revolution and are still operating should close down. [crowd chants "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

We were not able to close down the Katani Company through legal means. They went to the Chamber of Commerce in London and filed a complaint against us, charging that Iran owes $21 million in compensation. The banks were forced to pay $7 million in settlement and promises were made to give the necessary facilities. [sentence as heard] We have still not been able to rid ourselves fully of the evils of the filthy deeds of the Pahlavi era. We should take care that all is well. [passage omitted] You should know that if we consider this war a window to wealth and if we follow an open policy—an open-door policy—we will fall under the economic domination of global arrogance, and subjugation to its political and cultural domination will no doubt follow.

You should take care, therefore, not to think along these lines. We should tighten our belts as much as possible. Life in the very early days of the revolution.... [changes thought] Thanks to the blessings of the edict of his eminence, the imam, our situation, from the point of view of the (?war), eagerness, and vigor, has returned to what it was in the years 1358 and 1359 [1970- 80]. In those days, dressing expensively, providing large dowries, and cooking fancy foods were shameful things. We might return to that situation. It is too early for us to think of our own welfare, a life of ease and consumption. We are not producing, therefore we will turn into a dependent nation, dependent on everyone. I thought necessary to mention this. We are still trying to eliminate

the effects of Western culture, the effects of political domination. We have to a large extent eliminated the impact of economic domination, but, of course, there were certain consequences.

We have some problems now, problems arising from the war, from the revolution. If we had one problem before, now we have two. If we needed energy before, now we need twice as much. I believe it is necessary here to refer to the remarks of His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri [crowd chants support of Montazeri] who recently spoke to us. He raised a very important issue and I want to emphasize its importance. Even if institutions and foundations, revolutionary or otherwise, in the name of self-sufficiency, with good intentions and with good perceptions, take certain actions, such as appropriating government property, it does not matter if it is for consumption. In my view they can take it [government property] and use it to help a group which has priority. However, if they take it at a low price and then sell it on the market at a high price, it is wreaking havoc with the economy. This fans the flames of the economy. This is against the shari'a, it is forbidden. They must not act like this.

I hope that, if his eminence the imam deems it appropriate, after that statement—a statement with which he changed fate and destiny to a great extent and which put things onto another track, and which had so many blessings of which I will speak in the second sermon—he will use his wisdom, his eloquence, his pure spirit, and his perceptive commands to issue some guidance in this connection, as well as to start the wheels of construction in various dimensions. I say this because a single one of his gracious sentences is more effective and better than thousands of our sermons. Then the nation, with all its enthusiasm and eagerness, can begin the path of construction.

God willing, we can then have economic independence with production in our own hands; distribution in our own hands; everything in our own hands. On that day we, our nation will, God willing—it is politically independent (?already), it will be independent from a cultural point of view as well, it is already independent—become economically independent too. When we are independent, then if the gentlemen want well-being, if they want consumer goods, if they want to eat their own bread, if they want to reap the rewards of their own efforts, then there will be nothing wrong with that. [crowd chants support]

Second Sermon on UN Resolution

LD0508173388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1310 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, on 5 August at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] My second sermon concerns the resolution, about which a great deal has been spoken, written, and even discussed by the media. There is no way we can avoid discussing it. However, before referring to the resolution, I think it is necessary to thank several individuals and groups at the beginning of my sermon. During the attack on western Iran the people of Ilam, Juy Zar, Salehabad, and the tribal people there came away from the experience with their heads held high. They carried out their job very well. Before I begin my debate I must say that we should call them all—whether brothers, sisters, from all walks of life, tribes, Army people, IRGC members, all who showed such courage—heroes, real Muslims, responsible and committed. We thank them all.

I also believe it is necessary to talk about the brigade commander. When he realized that units under his command wanted to return, he went forward and lay down under the tank and told the unit that if they wanted to return they must drive over his dead body. I must thank him. We must ask the responsible authorities to offer them the necessary citation and gratitude.

My second sermon concerns the UN resolution and our reaction, the resolution and the reaction of others. I cannot mention everything I have noted. I will refer to some and omit others.

The acceptance of the resolution by his holiness the imam, may his blessings continue, was, as we all know, a shock both at home and abroad. It was a very profound and effective shock. It placed a fait accompli before all the world. They did not anticipate it. After a while, when the world had time to digest it, everyone abroad received the decision in a positive way. We can say that in general everyone without exception regarded it as a positive move. [passage omitted]

I followed those who wanted to say that the issue was not positive. I realized that these people represented only a handful, a single journalist, a single correspondent, or for instance, a single politician. And the main thing which caught my attention—I am not referring to positive points they also raised—was that they raised three points. The first was that they said Iran accepted the resolution out of weakness and that it had lost the war. The next item was that they said fundamentalism—to use their word—had now been abolished. They said the West had achieved its objectives. Then they said that the export of revolution had come to an end, it had stopped, it had become a myth. Those who did not regard the acceptance of the resolution as a positive step—a small number—said these things. That is the summary of their statements.

Another point they raised was this: If the Islamic Republic wanted to accept the resolution, why do so now. If we had accepted it sooner—5 years ago, 3 years, 2 years, or even 1 year ago, when the resolution was approved—then it would have been a greater benefit for Iran. These are the four points which they raised. I will discuss the

fourth point in my debate. No, the time to accept the resolution is now. If we had accepted it earlier we would not have achieved so many blessings and advantages.

As to those who say that the acceptance of the resolution was the result of weakness, from losing the war; if the acceptance of the resolution means that we were losing the war, then before we did so Saddam must have lost the war because he accepted the resolution from the very beginning. He accepted it unconditionally.

Saddam is now going back on his word. Well, if we say that both sides, both of us have lost, then who has won? If acceptance is equal to having lost, then he lost the war during the past year or two and now we too have lost. Maybe there is no winner.

If this is an example of weakness, if Saddam had not committed the folly of invading our territory only to retreat in such disgrace—from the south and Iraq—then some may have felt a bit of confidence. However, that event proved that Iran still possesses both the power to fight and also the power to drive the aggressor enemy to his own land.

They said that this, just like the era of revolution, has ended, that the revolution will not be exported. If we wanted to, we could export the revolution with force, with the sword. We did not use the sword; we did not use force. Did we ever intend to do this? If we had planned to do this, we would have needed to take up the sword first. Is there anyone in this world who does not know that this sword was reluctantly placed into our hands, that this war was imposed on us? Did we start war in order to export revolution, should we not be exporting it now, now that we want to accept the resolution?

The Iraqis imposed this war on us from the start. We did not want to export the revolution by means of force and war. We want Islam to be established in one part out of the many parts of the world; we want Islamic rule to prevail; we want Islamic reasoning to be clarified so that people can come and see a system of government just as it was at the time of the blessed prophet when Islamic rule began in Al-Madinah. This was our intention from the beginning. We talk and discuss issues; we hold meetings, we reason, we want to put things to work in Iran. It is not as if we wanted to use tanks and guns, for instance, to export the revolution. This war was imposed on us. They were bullying us. And this imposed war, if it were to end, has ended. [sentence as heard]

This resolution has brought many blessings. One of these was solving the problem of our foreign relations. Internally and externally we had problems, economic problems, and in all respects with Saddam, with the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq], with global arrogance. These problems were growing. However, externally, brothers and sisters, we were confronted in two ways, the first, by military aggression. They invaded our territory, ruined it, killed our people. This was the aggression committed by Saddam and his supporters. This was one form of aggression. Another aggression committed against us was in the form of propaganda. Whatever we did to tell the world about the clear and rightful statements we were saying, the world said it did not understand. We said: We are the victims; we have been invaded; Saddam is lying when he says he wants peace; his nature is that of a criminal; he cannot live without committing crimes; his hands ought to be cut off; the aggressor must be eliminated.

Whatever we did throughout the world, not only did we not have the world's support, except the support of the dispossessed who do not possess any authority, they did not even accept what we said. The Iraqis dropped chemical bombs on us and no one utterred a word. They gave missiles and all the facilities needed to the enemy. With the acceptance of the resolution all problems have been solved. Saddam has been exposed.

During the first days he boasted, saying: The leader of Iran has said that I have drunk a cup of poison; the Iranians do not want peace but I do, because I am a peace-seeker, and for me this peace is sweeter than honey. Well, this is what he was saying on the first day. Then he realized that the matter was quite serious. He came and dropped a chemical bomb on the inhabitants of Oshnoviyeh, on women, children, and all the inhabitants. It became clear what sweeter than honey meant.

Saddam cannot live without crime. A person who is born a criminal remains a criminal. Now, we have the world's support; now they come and say: Because Saddam has dropped chemical bombs, we condemn him. We have told the world not to support him, to leave us alone, and leave him alone. The world said: You are bullying us. We think that if he continues this stupidity a bit more, if he does not sit back and behave, even in front of his supporters in the Security Council, then the latter will at least reach the conclusion that he is no longer worthy of support any longer. If this happens, we will have won because if the world does not support Saddam so unstintingly, he knows he would be helpless in the face of our fighters. [crowd chants "Death to America," "Death to the Soviet Union," "Death to Israel"]

The world did not accept it from us. They gave assistance to Iraq, in the Persian Gulf. They gave him weapons. We came and said, just say one thing first and then we will accept the resolution: Say that Saddam is the aggressor. They did not say it. Now the Security Council will slowly reach the point at which... [Musavi-Ardabili changes thought] If the Security Council had listened to us and if we had subsequently accepted the resolution, it would not have had any problems, because after a declaration by the Security Council to the world that Saddam is the aggressor he would no longer be able to say that I have preconditions, I have post conditions, I have this and that.

Iraq is the aggressor. It does not have a leg to stand on. We have said this before and no one believed us. Now the Security Council will slowly reach the point at which, yes, Saddam is now saying: You have no right to unilaterally declare a cease-fire, you have no right to present us with a fait accompli. Now if the secretary general comes and says, what? [sentence as heard] What can Iraq say? Iraq does not even understand what is being said. It does not even understand English. What is Iraq saying? Who is this they have sent? The Security Council will slowly reach the point when they will say, yes, now Iraq has come. [sentence as heard]

Now is the time. The Security Council now understands Saddam's nature, he is a criminal. If he says I will not accept a unilateral cease-fire, the world should simply say: We will not support you. We promise you that a week later, Saddam will no longer exist. [crowd chants] If the Iraqis do not want to accept even that, the Security Council should—because Saddam is not accepting it and since the world is unwilling to withdraw its support—declare that Saddam is the aggressor. The matter will then be ended. He will no longer do the wicked things he is doing now.

We have two suggestions for the Security Council. If Saddam continues his wickedness and refuses in any way to take the direct path, those two options are both practicable. The decision is up to the Security Council and the secretary general.

Now there is another issue, the domestic issue. Did acceptance of the resolution also resolve the domestic issue? It is true that inside the country, an absolute majority of the nation—as it was seen in the last march and on other occasions—follow the imam; they love the imam. However, a question may have arisen in some people's minds, and indeed it did arise. People were saying: The imam says fight, and we will fight, but we do not understand. That was in the minds of some people and there is nothing wrong with that. This is just like the case of His Holiness Abraham. He said: I accept everything you say, I just want to see for myself. Abraham said that to God. This same attitude existed in the minds of our people, that I want to see and the resolution said: Come and see. [sentence as heard]

We accepted the resolution, and Saddam attacked Khoramshahr. We accepted the resolution and he attacked Oshnoviyeh. We accepted the resolution and he resorted to chemical bombings. We accepted the resolution and he attacked the west. Well, come and see! Now everyone is convinced in their hearts. The problem is no longer incomprehensible as a slogan. Everyone now knows what the issue is and what the imam's view is.

The third issue which was resolved for us is the issue of those hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq]. O God, WHen you want to solve a problem, you solve it in such a way that even the person to whose advantage the problem was solved would not have thought that such a solution existed. The issue of the hypocrites is also a problem for us. It was a problem. A large number of people have left Iran and have set up an organization for themselves. Some of them are also in prison in Iran. If we had ended the war, we would then have been caught up in the problem of the hypocrites and of how to resolve it. It might not have been very easy. God solved it in the simplest manner.

Regarding the hypocrites, those who are familiar with that group know that their leaders and organizers are a group of traitors and criminals. Another group of them has been deceived but is still obstinate. How strong their obstinacy is. When they were in Iran and were free, they announced that they were first of all against despotism; second, they opposed colonialism; third, they were against imperialism; and fourth, they opposed worship of foreigners. They regarded the masses to be the same as God; the people of Iran and God were the same. This is why they kept saying "In the name of God and in the name of the heroic masses." They had elevated the people to the status of God.

In order to prove that they oppose colonialism, imperialism, and foreigners, they receive their bread from them; they receive their water from them; they receive their clothes from them; they receive their weapons from them. When they brought a thousand vehicles with them, they brought tanks and antiaircraft [guns]. Did they get all those with their own efforts and with the sweat of their brow? They conspired with the most criminal individual in the world who is a thousand times worse that Hulagu, Genghis Khan [two Mongol rulers who caused a great deal of devastation], and Hitler and told him to drop chemical bombs from the air to pave the way for their advance. What did they want to do? They wanted to kill every bearded person in Iran. In Islamabad they killed every person they found with a beard; they killed any bearded person they could find. That was their work and their thinking, their analysis. See if anyone could make such an analysis. They said: First, the Iranian people have cut themselves off from their leadership; there is no one left who follows the imam and the officials. Second, the officials themselves are thirsty for one another's blood. Third, they have expended all the force they had. Well, they put these three analyses together and asked themselves: Why are we waiting in Baghdad? The people do not follow the leaders, the leaders are fighting among themselves, and they do not have any force left. Therefore, let us go to Eslamabad or elsewhere. They did not even think of the possibility of what they would do if their path was blocked and they were not allowed to advance. They said this probability does not exist. This is impossible. They planned to come here with 13 brigades and occupy Tehran, to announce in Freedom Square that Iran has been liberated and everybody has now joined the hypocrites.

Well, this is what they thought. The strangest thing is that they claim the people are with them, that they are the alternative government to the present government.

Bani-Sadr is not the alternative, the people do not accept him. Bakhtiar is not an alternative either, the people do not accept him. As for the monarchists, throw all that garbage away, the people do not accept them either. The only group which has a place in the hearts of the Iranians is us. If they [the people] could reach us, they would kiss our feet; otherwise, they will kiss the wheels of our vehicles, and they will sacrifice all their sheep in front of our feet. Come and watch and eat kebab! [laughter, chants of "Death to the Hypocrites!]

Death to them with their policies, with their analysis, and with the alternative which they are providing. They came but they did not know that the people consider them to be worse than any wretched animal. [crowd chants anti-Mojahedin slogans] The people are so angry at them that the judiciary is under great pressure from public opinion which questions why we even try them. There is no need for any trial. The crime is clear, the verdict is clear, and the punishment is also clear. There is no need for trial. The judiciary is pressured to answer why it puts them on trial. The judiciary is pressured to answer why all of them are not executed and why a group of them is jailed. [crowd shouts imprisoned "hypocrites" should be executed] The people do not accept it when we say that we must have proof; we must have evidence, such as his [a Mojahedin supporter] father is a Hezbollahi, his brother is a warrior, his family is pious, etc. The people do not accept any such talk. The people say that they should all be executed. A judge is faced with a number of problems in view of evidence and trial. On the other hand, the judge is under pressure from public opinion.

More than anyone else, I should thank that wretched man [not further identified] who made my job so much easier. Instead of trying them 10 by 10 or 20 by 20, reviewing their files and taking them away, we are sorry to say that only a third of them have been destroyed. I pray to God that all of them are destroyed, so that the matter is finished once and for all.

I was talking to Haj Ahmad Khomeyni [Khomeyni's son]. Haj Ahmad said: Perhaps they are telling the truth; maybe the people who took part in the march on 'Eid-e Ghadir [in support of Khomeyni] had gone to welcome them [the Mojahedin]. [laughter] However, they came and saw that we were there.

The people put so much pressure on the judiciary. They say that the judiciary has no right to forgive them, that the judicary has nothing to do with forgiveness and amnesty. Of course, the judiciary does not have the power to grant a pardon. The judiciary has the right to pass judgment and then its work is finished; the rest belongs to other authorities. However, the people think that this is within the prerogative of the judiciary and ask us why we issue pardons. First, let me tell you that granting pardons has nothing to do with the judiciary. This is the first thing. Second, I sympathize with you. I also have the same views as you and say that they should not be amnestied. [shouts of approval, slogans]

You should know this; it is not because I have been influenced by the atmosphere that I am saying this. They are such a stubborn lot. We do not have much time now for me to recount these; there would be a lot to say. This problem of ours was also solved.

The other problem which, due to God's grace, was solved for us was our economic problem. The psychological element was totally eliminated. Of course, they used to say—perhaps they were joking—that as soon as it was announced that the resolution was accepted, the other side would announce that the dollar was worth 70 tumans. Then the ambulances sounding their sirens would rush to the assistance of people who had had heart attacks! Perhaps this is not true [Musavi-Ardabili laughs] but perhaps it is.

So this resolution also solved this psychological problem for us. Our most important problem is this: Our people are now full of vigor and eagerness, just like in 1357-58 [1978-79]. But they are more alert and more experienced. [passage omitted] The revolution has been reactivated now and all this is due to the blessings and the instructions of his eminence the imam and the acceptance of the resolution. [passage omitted] The Almighty made this a blessing for us. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Cables Khomeyni on Pakistani's Death

LD0708143788 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 7, IRNA—Lebanon's Hizballah cabled a message to the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni Sunday, expressing deep condolences on the assassination of prominent Pakistani Alim Seyyed 'Arif Hussain al-Hussaini by agents of global arrogance.

Elsewhere in its message, the Hizballah pledged to continue its resistance and struggle against arrogant powers until the final victory.

Martyr 'Arif Hussain al-Hussaini, leader of Pakistani Shi'ite Muslims, was shot by unidentified gunmen in front of his home in Peshawar while returning from the morning prayer on Friday, and a few hours later attained martyrdom at a hospital.

Hashsemi-Rafsanjani's Message

LD0608123888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Following the martyrdom of 'Allamah 'Arif Hussain al-Hussaini, leader of the Pakistani Shi'as, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief and speaker of the Majlis, issued the following message:

On the occasion of His Holiness Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin 'Allamah 'Arif Hussain al-Hussaini's martyrdom I offer my condolences to all the sincere and struggling Muslims of Pakistan.

This horrible crime proves how much the global infidelity is frightened of conscious and struggling personalities among the clergy. It also proves how much the worldwide Islamic resurgence has endangered the illegitimate interests of the global arrogance and infidelity.

We expect the Government of Pakistan, and His Excellency President Ziaul Haq personally, to arrest the agents of this crime and to reveal them to the public, and to the world of Islam, who angrily and impatiently await the facts and punishment for the criminals.

Cabinet Discusses Hussain al-Hussaini Death, War

LD0708111188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in today's session today the Cabinet paid tribute to martyr 'Allamah 'Arif Hussain al-Hussaini, the Pakistani Shi'a leader, who was martyred by mercenary agents of reaction and arrogance. The Iranian Cabinet conveyed the Iranian Government and people's demand for the punishment of the perpetrators of the crime, and stressed the need for alertness and sensitivity by Muslims around the world to guard the foundations of Islam and to mobilize everyone against the objectives of arrogance.

The report says that after reviewing major domestic and international developments, the situation at the fronts, and progress in the foreign minister's talks with the UN secretary general, the method of implementation Security Council Resolution No 598 was discussed. The government's view on the need for maintaining the presence and full readiness of fighters on the fronts, notwithstanding Iran's serious moves toward peace, was explained.

Omani Foreign Affairs Official Arrives for Visit

LD0608152588 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA—Omanese minister of state for foreign affairs, Yusuf ibn 'Alawi 'Abdallah arrived here today headin a delegation. He was welcomed at the airport by Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

On his arrival, he said the ever-expanding relations between Iran and Oman calls for frequent exchange of ranking delegations.

He described his country's stand towards Iran's acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 as "very positive", and viewed the regional situation as hopeful. The Omanese foreign minister is on a week-long official visit to the Islamic Republic.

Statement Says Majlis Suspension To Continue

LD0608173588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] A statement addressed to the Muslim Iranian nation was issued by the Majlis today. The statement refers to the extensive presence of the people on the fronts of combat against Saddamist blasphemy and to their uniform presence in the splendid march of renewed allegiance to the imam. It says: Because, with God's grace and with the heroic support of you, the people, and with the blessing of the our gracious imam's knowledgeable leadership, the wicked aggressions of the enemy have now been crushed in the southern and western fronts, there should be no doubts in the mind of any members of the brave Iranian nation that the wounded Ba'thist enemy is not to be trusted because of its aggressive nature. We must remain ever vigilant with respect to its obstructionism and possible aggression.

For that reason, at these sensitive and destiny-making moments when the need is greater than ever for maintaining vigilance and being present on the scenes, for the sake of total preparedness in defending Islam and the revolution, the Majlis renews the suspension of its activities so that the deputies of the brave and resistant people of Islamic Iran, with their presence on and behind the fronts alongside the people they represent, can continue the holy war and support the selfless fighters.

Civil Aviation Team Departs for Dubayy

LD0608144188 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT dd 6 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA—A fact-finding team, sent to Iran by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to probe the July 3 U.S. downing of an Iran Air Airbus A-300 in the Persian Gulf, left here Saturday for Dubayy in the UAE, the destination of the ill-fated flight.

During its 8-day visit, the ICAO delegation visited the site of the crash in the Persian Gulf and inspected the debris of the downed passenger jet so far retrieved from Persian Gulf waters.

On July 3, Iran Air Flight 655 en route to Dubayy from Bandar-e 'Abbas in southern Iran was missiled down by the cruiser "USS Vincennes" as a result of which all 290 passengers and crew aboard, including 66 children and 38 foreigners were martyred.

The ICAO delegation is to release its findings after a visit to Dubayy and inspection of the cruiser "USS Vincennes", provided the American officials agree.

Prior to his departure, head of the delegation told reporters at the Tehran airport that all dimensions of the incident which he described as "regrettable" should be investigated in order to prevent such a repetition.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique Notes Gulf Missions

LD0608174288 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA—Iranian naval units monitored movements of seven Iraqi vessels near Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platforms and in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway Friday, said a General Command Headquarters communique here today.

The communique said an unidentified vessel attempted to approach Farsi Island at 22:00 hours (18:30 GMT) Friday, but was forced to flee by Iranian combatants' fire.

Naval forces of the Islamic Republic Army discovered and detonated a mine near Bushehr naval zone at 17:30 hours (14:00 GMT) Thursday.

Meanwhile, Iranian jets in their patrol mission over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman reconnoitered 14 cargo vessels, tankers and foreign warships Friday.

Navy Activities Detailed

LD0708190388 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—Iranian Air Force pilots effectively carried out patrol flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on Saturday in support of the naval forces' operations.

The Iranian planes reconnoitered 24 vessels including tankers, cargo ships, boats and tug boats during their patrol.

The Islamic Republic's Navy defending Iranian rigs and islands carried out their routine mission in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

The naval forces also checked activities of some Iraqi vessels near Khawr 'Abdallah waterway as well as Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platforms.

Iraq Shells Sar Dasht Villages

LD0808092888 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., Aug. 8, IRNA—Three people were severly wounded in Iraqi Sunday shelling of villages near Sar Dasht. Many homes and farms received heavy damage in the shelling which lasted three hours.

Pakistan

Afghan Fighter-Bomber Shells Region, Downed

Air Force Downs Plane

BK0608085088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 6 (AFP)—An Afghan Air Force plane was shot down this week by a Pakistani F-16 fighter while on a bombing raid over Pakistani territory, a newspaper reported Saturday.

A total of 13 Afghan refugees were killed Tuesday and Wednesday [2-3 August] in Afghan bombing raids in the same region, Waziristan in northwest Pakistan, according to local press reports.

The Peshawar FRONTIER POST said Saturday that two Afghan Air Force fighter-bombers penetrated into Pakistani territory early Thursday near the city of Miram Shah, more than 35 kilometres (22 miles) inside Pakistan.

The Afghan planes had begun to drop bombs when a Pakistani F-16 shot one of them down, the newspaper based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar said.

The pilot bailed out and was captured, it said. The plane crashed inside Pakistan some 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Miram Shah, the POST added.

On Wednesday, six Afghan Air force planes dropped bombs in the area, killing an Afghan refugee family of five, according to the local press.

On Tuesday, eight people were killed and 16 wounded by Afghan air raids that also destroyed several houses at a border village, Pakistani radio said.

The eight people killed were all Afghan refugees, the radio said.

The Pakistani Government lodged a protest with Kabul over Tuesday's bombing.

Ministry Confirms Downing

BK0608153188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman has confirmed in Islamabad that an Afghan fighter-bomber violated Pakistan's airspace and intruded up to 10 miles into Pakistani territory. A Pakistan Air Force F-16 aircraft, which was on patrol duty, intercepted and shot down the aircraft. The debris of the Afghan aircraft has been found inside the Pakistani territory.

Soviet Pilot Held

BK0808045488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0452 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 8 (AFP)—Pakistani officials are holding the Soviet pilot of an Afghan Air Force plane shot down last week in northern Pakistan, official sources said here Monday.

The plane was shot down Thursday by a Pakistani F-16 fighter as it began bombing Afghan refugee camps in Miram Shah, about 30 kilometers inside Pakistani territory, local press reports said.

Bombing by Afghan planes left 13 Afghan refugees dead last week on Pakistani territory, a few kilometers from Miram Shah.

The Soviet pilot bailed out and was captured by tribesmen in the Waziri Autonomous Tribal Zone, the reports said.

The tribesmen handed him over to the Pakistani authorities in return for 50,000 rupees (2,700 U.S. dollars), the promise of a road for their village and two seats in the local administration, the MUSLIM DAILY said.

The pilot was taken by helicopter to Islamabad.

Three Afghan planes have been shot down in the Pakistani border area in recent years.

In October, two Soviet helicopters landed in mountains near Chital, in northern Pakistan.

The six Soviet crewmen told Pakistani security forces they were lost and were swiftly handed over to the Soviet ambassador in Islamabad.

Kabul Protest on Shelling of Province Rejected

BK0508023088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul regime's protest in which it was alleged that the Pakistani Armed Forces and militias had heavily shelled and partially damaged two posts in Qandahar Province on 16 July.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office and told that the allegations have been investigated and found to be baseless.

Prominent Religious Scholar Killed in Peshawar

BK0508065788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] A prominent religious scholar, 'Allamah 'Arif Hussain al-Hussaini, was shot dead by an unknown person in Peshawar early this morning. He was around 45. It is strongly believed that foreign elements who want to harm national unity in Pakistan may be behind the murder of the religious scholar.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed profound grief and sorrow at the tragic death and strongly condemned this barbaric act. Religious scholars belonging to various schools of thought in the country have also condemned this savage act.

Further on Assassination

BK0508161688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed his deep sorrow and anguish over the assassination of prominent religious scholar and leader 'Allamah 'Arif Hussain al-Hussaini who was shot dead in Peshawar early this morning. In a statement issued from Rawalpindi, the president said:

[Begin recording] I was deeply shocked by the news of the sudden death of the great leader, patriot, servant of Islam and servant of Pakistan Maulana Arif Hussain al-Hussaini. When I received the news of this tragic incident this morning, I could not believe at first that it could even happen. Because, as an individual, Maulana 'Arif Hussaini was not only a pious and gentle soul but he was a great advocate of unity among the Muslims, and he was among the ulema and leaders who dedicated their whole lives to the service of Islam. And I think that the foremost and basic requirement of service for Islam is unity and harmony. The absence of such a figure from among us is certainly a communal tragedy, a national loss and a blow to the unity of Muslims. [end recording]

The president said that the act seems to be the conspiracy of the enemies of Pakistan and Islam and their agents who are out to harm national unity and integrity and who do not want to see peace and amity and communal harmony in Pakistan nor its strength and prosperity. Condemning this barbaric act in his strongest words, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq appealed to all countrymen, and particularly the relatives, colleagues and followers, to work with patience and restraint on this incident and maintain complete unity in their ranks and foil the designs of the anti-Pakistan and anti-Islam elements. The president said:

[Begin recording] I, on my personal behalf and on behalf of the government of Pakistan, assured them that no efforts will be spared to arrest the persons responsible for this heinous conspiracy and give them their due. I have already directed all concerned authorities, particularly the NWFP administration, to mobilize all their resources to take legal procedure against the criminals. At the conclusion, I pray to God that He may grant the

deceased his blessings and enable his relatives and followers to live with patience and give us the capability so that we can foil the designs of anti-Islam and anti-Pakistan elements. Amen. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Malik Nasim Ahmed Ahir in a condolence message has said that 'Allamah Hussaini has been assassinated by a conspiracy. The murder has been committed by the subversive elements who like to create instability in the country by sowing the seeds of hatred and enmity among various sections of people. He said that there is clear evidence that foreign, hostile hands are behind this incident. The federal minister said that all law enforcement agencies have been directed to bring the culprit to justice as soon as possible so as to give him exemplary punishment and to unveil the heinous conspiracy. He said that people will ignore their sectional differences and foil the despicable designs of the subversive elements by maintaining unity in their ranks. [passage omitted]

Najibullah's Brother, Family Seek Asylum
BK0508131588 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 5 (AFP)—A brother of Afghanistan's President Najibullah, Siddiqullah, has fled to Pakistan with his wife and two children, reliable sources said here Friday.

He will probably ask for political asylum, an official of the Jamiat-Islami moderate fundamentalist group said, without specifying which country he would seek refuge in.

Mr. Siddiqullah and his family fled Kabul in October to seek refuge in the Panshjir Valley, northeast of the capital, with the forces of Commander Ahmed Shah Massoud, one of the most prestigious chiefs of the Jamiat group.

A Jamiat spokesman said at the time that the president's brother was "demoralised by the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan".

Mr. Siddiqullah and his family arrived Wednesday in Chitral, in northern Pakistan, and was expected here soon, the sources said.

He has "never been a supporter of the pro-Soviet regime" and has been imprisoned by his brother in the past, diplomatic sources said.

His defection would not have particular political significance, diplomats in Islamabad said, but would embarrass Mr. Najibullah.

The Afghan president has launched a campaign for national reconciliation to get the mujahedin to stop fighting and join a government in Kabul and to attract back five million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and Iran.

Moscow Accused of Violating Geneva Peace Accord
BK0608120688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1145 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 6 (AFP)—Pakistan Saturday accused Moscow of violating the Geneva peace accord by sending billions of dollars in weapons to Kabul and warned that arming an unpopular regime would only prolong the Afghan conflict.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said he had conveyed the Pakistani "concern" to his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze during talks in Moscow this week.

Mr. Yaqub Khan was speaking at a news conference here nine days before the scheduled withdrawal of half the Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

"This (transfer of arms) clearly is inconsistent with the spirit of the Geneva accord," he said, adding that "such action is designed to provide military sustenance to Kabul, a regime unacceptable to the Afghan people, and would serve to prolong the conflict inside Afghanistan."

He said he was confident the Soviets would withdraw 50 percent of their troops by August 15, as called for by the Geneva peace accord signed on April 14.

The United Nations-brokered accord calls for a nine month phased pull out of the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Mr. Yaqub Khan firmly rejected Soviet charges that Pakistan was violating the accord, which was signed by Islamabad and Kabul and guaranteed by Moscow and Washington.

Moscow has charged that Pakistan has violated the accord by hosting training camps for Afghan resistance rebels fighting the Soviet troops and Kabul government forces, and by supplying them with weapons.

But Mr. Yaqub Khan said he had told Soviet leaders that the U.N. team monitoring the accord's implementation confirmed in reports that there was no evidence to substantiate the charges.

He said he made clear to Soviet authorities that "repetition of complaints and pressures would resolve nothing."

Replying to a Soviet charge that Pakistan was supporting international terrorism by continuing assistance to the Mujahidin, Mr. Yaqub Khan said "this language was unworthy of the new Soviet outlook and approach in world affairs."

The Soviet-backed Kabul government provides an example of international terrorism by intruding into Pakistani air space and encouraging subversion through its agents, he said.

"Pakistan can not be held responsible for developments inside Afghanistan which was the manifestation of (an) internal struggle for independence.

"The understanding reached in Geneva remains a key to the restoration of peace and return (home) of the millions of Afghans refugees" now in Pakistan, he said.

The Soviet response to the creation of a broad-based government in Kabul was not encouraging, he added.

Mr. Yaqub Khan said Soviet complaints about the formation of a rebel government in Pakistan were "invalid" as Pakistan had not recognized such a government.

But, he added, "it would be unrealistic and unnatural to expect Pakistan to neutralise or prevent political activities of the three million (Afghan) refugees" who had been forced to seek asylum in Pakistan.

"There is no doubt that the people and Government of Pakistan have deep and sincere sympathy for the refugees and the Mujahidin who have struggled courageously for a decade for Afghan freedom," he said.

Yaqub Khan on Outcome of U.S., USSR Visit

BK0608115288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, returned to Islamabad today after his visit to the United States and the Soviet Union. Addressing a news conference at the airport, he said the American leaders have reaffirmed their continued firm support for the solidarity and security of Pakistan. Both Pakistan and America reaffirmed their total commitment on the implementation of the Geneva accord and expressed the hope that conducive conditions will be established there which would help the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. During his stay in Washington, the foreign minister met President Reagan, the American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, the defense secretary, Mr Carlucci, and other leaders, including bipartisan congressional leaders and prominent media personalities.

In Moscow, the foreign minister held frank exchange of views with his Soviet counterpart, Mr Shevardnadze, on positive trends on international scene and shared the views that the frequent bilateral exchanges were valuable and should be maintained.

Both sides affirmed the significance of the Geneva accord which had already produced a salutary impact on efforts for resolution of problems in other parts of the world.

Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan Visits USSR

For Soviet and Pakistani reportage on the USSR visit of Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan, including his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 3 August Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.